

THE  
HISTORY OF ROTHWELL.

BY  
JOHN BATTY.

ROTHWELL :

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

1877.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

## PREFACE.

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To many it may seem a matter of surprise that Rothwell, possibly regarded by them as merely an obscure village, should be able to furnish materials sufficiently important and interesting to engage the attention of the historian. Such, however, is the case. On entering the village, more notably by the Church, an observant stranger cannot fail to notice the venerable appearance of this sacred edifice, and must feel that a certain antiquity hangs about the place ; as he goes along he will be struck with the somewhat curious and quaint aspect of the village generally in the mixture of its old and new buildings.

Rothwell unmistakably possesses several proofs of existence in the distant past, as instanced by present archæological remains, and in recorded history. It had a name and a place in the reign of Edward the Confessor, if not earlier, and is prominently mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was a small market town six hundred years ago, and in later times was selected as a convenient situation for the Debtors' Gaol connected with the Honour of

Pontefract. Moreover, important events have transpired within the parish, not only of local interest, but occasionally connected with national affairs.

The present attempt is called forth in the belief that Rothwell is worthy of a fuller, and therefore more satisfactory account, than has hitherto been given of it in several sketches already published.

The author of this work feels that even in the present undertaking only an imperfect history is produced. The limited time at his command, available only out of business hours, prohibits that complete research necessary for an exhaustive work. Unfortunately, the fundamental sources of information to be obtained from the archives of the Duchy of Lancaster, Manorial Records, and other valuable documents and private deeds, are almost beyond the reach of those having only ordinary means of time and money. He trusts, however, that the result of his humble labours now presented, will not be in vain, and that additional and valuable facts, referring more especially to ancient times, will be elicited in the future, and thereby one of the objects of the writer accomplished.

It is to be regretted that a better Chronicle of Local Events has not been made many years

ago, and so rescued from oblivion circumstances of an interesting character, which might have given an insight into the curious manners and customs of the inhabitants of a former age, and have furnished a picture of the district generally.

The aim of the author has been to introduce new and original matter obtained by personal inquiry, from people possessing authoritative and official information. He has as far as possible avoided repeating that which has already appeared in print.

The reasons for the delay in the publication of the history are manifold. An unexpected amount of information acquired in the process, and the consequent enlargement of the work; the care and anxiety in obtaining correct dates and in the verification of facts, names, and circumstances; conflicting evidences, causing the arrival at the truth to be slow and difficult; added to these the constant impression that the writer must acquit himself worthily in his object and undertaking. Errors, however, in spite of this, may still creep in, as all human effort is liable to imperfection. At all events, the writer trusts that the criticism, which, like others, he does not expect to escape, will, in consideration of these points, be just if not generous.

In this pleasurable pursuit and study the author has met with far more encouragement than he calculated upon. His especial thanks are due to William Wheater, Esq., of Leeds, a thorough good antiquary, for the valuable information so freely rendered; to Mrs. Bell, and the Executors of the late Rev. John Bell, M.A., Vicar of Rothwell, for the use of his valuable manuscripts on the ecclesiastical affairs of the parish; to the Rev. R. Burrell, Vicar of Stanley, for the interesting notices of the Ancient Britons and Romans in the neighbourhood; to J. J. Cartwright, Esq., of the Record Office, for the loan of original notes; for the important suggestions of William Smith, Esq., Historian of Morley; Edward Hailstone, Esq., of Walton Hall; Fairless Barber, Esq., of Rastrick; Wm. Andrews, Esq., of Hull. He is also thankful to John Holmes, Esq., of Methley, and Mr. Charles Forrest, of Lofthouse, for the appreciated opportunity of consulting their splendid libraries, so rich in antiquarian and historic lore, and their kind responses to certain inquiries. To the Rev. George Heberden, Vicar of Rothwell, his cordial thanks are due for the ready permission granted to examine the Church Registers, so fruitful in dates and suggestive facts.

The wonderful treasures of the Leeds Old

Library and the Public Library have been freely and courteously thrown open to him by their respective librarians. In a word, to all who have revised his proofs, lent books or documents, given information upon the subject, or in any degree contributed to bring about the present result, the author feels grateful.

The intention has been to produce a popular history, the various explanations of terms, &c., in the notes, to the initiated may appear lengthy and superfluous, but they have been deemed necessary in order to make the history thoroughly understood, and thereby acceptable to all.

It will be well if this, the first important literary effort of the writer in a historical direction, should be productive in the future of a more learned and elaborate work on the district.

In conclusion, if the reader derives as much pleasure from the perusal of the work as the writer has had in its compilation, he will be amply repaid.

J. B.

ELM COTTAGE,  
ROTHWELL, near LEEDS  
*October, 1877.*

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

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*Page* 36, *line* 29, read *William Transversus*, instead of *Henry Traverse*. This is founded upon a statement made by Richard of Hexham, in his "History of the Acts of King Stephen, and the Battle of the Standard." It extends from 1135 to 1139, and was probably written about 1140, before Richard became prior in 1143. The quotation is:—"At this period (evidently the beginning of Stephen's reign, 1135 or 1136), *William*, surnamed *Transversus*, who, by a grant from King Henry, held the lordship of Pontefract, as the town is called, having received at that place a mortal wound, from a knight named Pain, died three days afterwards, having assumed the monastic habit."—("Sketches of Pontefract Topography," published at the office of the *Pontefract Advertiser*.)

*Page* 41, *line* 5, omit *first*, and read *Henry, Earl of Lincoln*.

*Page* 71, *last line*, instead of *offered* read *afforded*.

*Page* 76, *line* 41, instead of *Scotchman*, read *Westmoreland man*, the name of Airey being common in that county.

*Page* 96, *line* 9, instead of *His*, at the commencement of the paragraph, read *The*.

*Page* 106, *line* 30, instead of *Whitwall*, read *Whitewall*.

*Page* 112, *line* 3, for *Laurence*, read *Launcelot*; *line* 7, omit *farmer's man*.

*Page* 130, *lines* 34 and 38, read *great grandmother* and *great grandson*.  
*Page* 142, *line* 26, read *the late Joseph*, instead of *John*.

*Page* 153, *line* 11, "*Auspicium melioris ævi*." This motto appears also on the crest of the Duke of St. Albans. *Auspicium*, if considered as a noun, and translated to signify *a token, sign, or augury*, is perfectly correct.

*Page* 156. The cost of the Holy Trinity Schools was about £2000.

*Page* 167, *line* 10, read *great grandson* of John Nelson.

*Page* 185, *line* 1, read *Joseph*, instead of *John*.

*Page* 273, *line* 18, after "Education Acts," in the place of *is* read *are*.

### THE OLD GAOL BUILDINGS. (*Page* 126.)

Mr. John Dickinson, the second owner of the name, has just restored the cottages in the yard, and plastered them over, giving them, as it were, another lease of life. He intends also to improve the street frontage, by elevating some portions of the buildings. He wishes to do away with the old title, and to designate the whole, "Dickinson's Buildings," by which name in the future he desires them to be known.

RODES HALL (*see page 60*).

- 1651, 21st Jan.—Dorothy, daughter of Mr. Stamper, baptised of Rodes.  
 1654, 9th Oct.—Richard, son of Mr. Richard Bubwith, buried from Roades Hall.  
 1732.—Anthony Clarkson.  
 1751.—Elizabeth Brook, married John Rodgerson, of Leeds.  
 1754.—Elizabeth Ellis, widow, buried 17th day of April, from Rhodes Hall.  
*From Registers.*

The following more correctly indicates the gentleman's trade than on *page 126, line 17*:—"Mr. Garrett, merchant, of Lisbon, is married to Miss Elizabeth Berkenhout, of this town, a very agreeable young lady."—*Leeds Intelligencer*, March 20, 1759.

In 1803, beacons were erected, in fear of Buonaparte's invasion. The West Riding Beacons were placed at the Wapentakes or Divisions, viz., Lower Agbrigg at East Ardsley—Morley at Charnock's.

## THE BRANDLINGS.

- 1748.—Ann, wife of Ralph Brandling, Esq., buried 4th July, from Middleton Hall.  
 1749.—Ralph Brandling, Esq., buried 22nd June, from Middleton Hall.  
 1759, June.—Barbara, daughter of Charles Brandling, Esq., buried the first day, from Middleton Hall.  
 1766, April.—Charles, son of Charles Brandling, Esq., buried the 30th day, from Middleton Lodge.  
 1785.—Elizabeth, wife of Charles Brandling, Esq., Middleton, buried 7th October, aged 54 years.  
 1797.—Born 14th November, Charles John, son of the Rev. Ralph Henry Brandling, by Emma, his wife. Thorpe, Vicar of this Parish.  
 1802.—Charles Brandling, Esq., died July 6, of Middleton, aged 70.  
*From Church Registers.*

THE HUNT FAMILY, OF CARLTON (*see page 89*).

Mr. Thurston Hunt was a gentleman by birth, born at Carlton Hall, near Leeds. He was brought up at Douay College, during his residence at Rheims. From thence he was sent upon the English Mission, after being ordained priest by Cardinal de Guise, April 20, 1584. He was arrested and suffered death on account of his priesthood, at Lancaster, in March, 1601.—"Memoirs of Missionary Priests," by Dr. Challoner.

## BURIALS FROM CARLTON HALL.

- 1740.—John Norton.  
 1740.—Francis Howard.

CURATES (*add to list, page 76*).

- 1705.—Thomas Woodcock.  
 1715.—John Downs, *curate* of Rothwell, buried 5th November.  
 1719.—M. E. Day.  
 1721.—M. E. Cooper.  
 1734-5.—Walter Wyate.

PARISH CLERKS (*add to page 93*).

- 1705.—William Akeroyd, *parish clerk* of Rothwell, sepult. October 28.  
 1707.—John Rockett.  
 1718.—Ye 1 Sepr., George Fentiman, *sexton* (*see page 100*).  
 1751.—John Proctor, *church beagle*, buried the 19th day April, from Rothwell.

INCOME OF THE ROTHWELL LIVING (*see page 72*).

The commuted rent charge in lieu of tithes is thus apportioned on the several estates:—

	£	s.	d.
Township of Middleton ...	...	...	200 8 0
Rothwell-cum-Royds ...	...	...	169 5 0
District of Rothwell Haigh ..	...	...	183 0 0
Township of Oulton-cum-Woodlesford ..	..	..	140 0 0
Thorpe ...	...	...	40 0 0
Lofthouse-cum-Carlton ..	...	...	100 0 0
Hamlet of Carlton ...	...	...	68 0 9
	<hr/>		
	£900 13 9		
The Glebe Land—Annual Value ..	...	7 2 0	
Easter Offerings and Surplice Fees ..	...	85 0 0	
	<hr/>		
	£992 15 9		

Taken from Particulars of the Rothwell Advowson, when offered in the sale of the Middleton estate, October 7th, 1862.

## RESTORATION OF ROTHWELL CHURCH TOWER.

The restoration alluded to on page 99 is now completed, the thanksgiving being celebrated on September 5th, 1877, by a tea at the Mechanics' Institute, and evening sermon at the Church, preached by the Rev. A. C. Hope, Vicar of Barwick-in-Elmet.

The *tower* is greatly improved, and stands out in almost its original strength, likely to endure many more centuries. Its restoration has been a dangerous undertaking, and has been accomplished without accident, reflecting great credit upon the care of the builder.

The *clock*, put up by Potts and Sons, of Leeds, seems an excellent one, and is in good going order, and a real boon to the inhabitants; and though its striking is not startlingly loud, can be heard distinctly throughout the village. It is a turret clock, on Sir Edmund Beckett Denison's principle. The dial, of iron, is 7 ft. 4 in. diameter, weight 14 cwt.; the risen letters, 1 ft. deep; minute hand, 4 ft. 4 in.; hour hand, 2 ft. 8 in.; pendulum, 9 ft. 6 in. long; pendulum bob weighs 2 cwt. 6 lbs.; going weights, about 1 cwt.; striking weight, 3½ cwt., with a drop of betwixt 30 to 40 ft.; striking hammer weighs 22 lbs., and hits against the tenor bell, weighing 13½ cwt.

#### THE NEW CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, WOODLESFORD,

Is the last of the four churches built during the vicariate of the late Rev. John Bell, Vicar of Rothwell, for the purpose of relieving the Parish Church of Rothwell, where the inhabitants of Woodlesford were formerly accustomed to attend public worship.

The Church is prettily situated on an eminence above the Midland Railway, and commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. It was built by subscription in 1870, at a cost of about £4,500. It is of cruciform shape, and the style is of the geometric period of Gothic architecture. The internal arrangements are in every way satisfactory and complete. There is a handsome font and pulpit of Caen stone, a brass lectern, and brass altar and pulpit desks. The chancel is inlaid with encaustic tiling. The seats in the body of the Church, which are free and unappropriated, are each supplied with prayer books, hymn books, and hassocks. Sittings 272. The living is a vicarage, value £150.

On the consecration of the Church, the trustees nominated the Rev. C. J. Hussey, M.A., to the benefice, and on his resignation in May, 1877, the parish was entrusted to the care of the Rev. A. J. Irvin, B.A., curate of Rothwell, who was instituted by the Bishop of Ripon on July 10th, 1877. The following is inscribed on a brass tablet at the west end of the Church:—

"To the glory of God. This Church, dedicated to All Saints, was built by subscription: towards its endowment the sum of three thousand pounds was given by Joseph Crompton Oddie, Esquire, of Woodlesford. The peal of six bells was given by Sir Charles Hugh Lowther, Baronet, of Swillington House. The chief corner stone was laid on the first day of

April, 1869, by Mrs. Henry Bentley, of Eshald House, Woodlesford. The Church was consecrated by the Right Reverend Robert Bickersteth, D.D., Bishop of Ripon, the 7th day of December, 1870.

"Rev. C. J. HUSSEY, M.A., Vicar.  
"Sir C. H. LOWTHER, Baronet,  
"JOSEPH CROMPTON ODDIE,  
"HENRY BENTLEY,  
"JOHN TOWLERTON LEATHER,  
"RICHARD HARRISON,  
} Trustees.  
"PERKIN & SON, Architects."

Inscription under east window:—"This window is erected in memory of Henry Bentley, of Eshald House, Woodlesford, who died 24th November, 1848, aged 45 years, and also of Maria, his wife, who died 2nd October, 1855, aged 46 years, by their affectionate sons, Timothy and Henry Bentley, and Frederick Stocks Bentley-Innes."

#### LOFTHOUSE CHURCH,

Dedicated to "Our Saviour Christ," was erected in 1839-40, being opened for divine service May 7th, 1840, and consecrated on October 26th by Bishop Longley. It is a plain building in the Early English style of architecture. It consists of nave and chancel, small organ, font, and bell turret. Value, £112. Patron, the Vicar of Rothwell. Sittings, 360. Vicar, the Rev. Robert Chadwick.

#### MIDDLETON CHURCH

Is named St. Mary's. It is a modern stone building, of the Early English style, having nave, aisles, chancel, tower and spire, north transept, organ, and several painted windows. Patron, the Vicar of Rothwell. Value, £120. Sittings, 500. Vicar, the Rev. Frederick Freeman, M.A. The architect, Mr. Chantrell. Operations were commenced on Good Friday, 1845, and the building finished in 1847.

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## PRE-HISTORIC AGE.

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At what period the immense tract of country we now designate Yorkshire was first peopled, or even when it was not the dwelling place of human beings, with our present imperfect knowledge, it is difficult, if not impossible, to conjecture.

It will be useful to try to picture to ourselves what would be, in all probability, the physical appearance of the country in primeval times, and this will be serviceable afterwards for the better comprehension of names given to places in this district.

The surface of the land would be for the most part covered with dense forests and woods, chiefly of elm and oak; wild and extensive moors, heaths and commons, and occasional patches of green meadow, relieving the otherwise dark and sombre landscape. The rivers would be broad and overflowing, causing swamps, quagmires and marshes, where willows, rushes, and the like would grow in luxuriant abundance. The yellow ling flower and the purple heather variegating the barren moor.

Untamed and fierce animals, such as hyenas, wolves, wild boars and deer, would shelter in and roam about these forests, and the wild pigs feed on the acorns and mast, and stye in the nooks of the commons.

Fishes would sport in the uncontaminated waters, and web-footed animals delight themselves in its depths. Such may be safely imagined as a sketch, imperfect though it may be, of the natural and primitive beauty of the scene which then prevailed.

Of what manner of man (his ethnological characteristics, propensities, or mental calibre), who entered by migration, at an indefinite period upon this early scene, we have only an indistinct notion.

In accidental diggings there have been found in this neighbourhood indubitable evidences of his early existence, in the discovery of specimens of rude workmanship, only attributable to a condition of savage-life.

The Rev. R. Burrell, of Stanley, informs me that "thirty-five flint weapons belonging to the Palæolithic age (the ancient stone age) have been found near the Roman camp at Stanley, consisting of arrow heads, thumb-flints, flakes, &c." These indicate certainly a time when iron and other metals were unknown, and when the genius of man, as yet, had not found out their existence, nor invented the appliances to reach and manipulate them. Man, in his struggle for existence, had to bring to bear a superior inventive skill to produce sharp and pointed weapons, which would enable him to cope with, and destroy for his own use and sustenance, the animals that disputed with him the possession of the ground.

The materials of which these weapons were composed were the best he could discover at the time, to answer his purposes of cutting and warfare, and these being less perishable than their user, remain to show to us, in the absence of written history, what were the peculiar modes of life, habits, &c., of the aboriginal type of man.

"A rude tree boat (says Mr. Holmes, in his clever sketch of the History of Leeds), was found in 1818 at Stanley Ferry, below the surface of the soil, and proves that formerly the valleys were lakes, and that the inhabitants had then only the arts and implements of savage life, and we may fairly infer their habits accordingly."

During the lapse of ages, the duration of which we can form no adequate conception, when the slow but gradual process of evolution and development was going on amongst

all forms of created beings, the intellect of man became sharpened and expanded by the very necessity of coming in contact with, and experimenting upon, the forces of nature and the materials which surrounded him; and the lower forms of humanity had either to succumb to the higher, to become extinct, or to amalgamate, and thus the savage emerged by degrees from a low degraded stage to one of a higher civilisation.

After this we meet with records of one of the most powerful and numerous tribes of the Ancient Britons, called the Brigantes (hill-dwellers); they were a fine and physically well-developed race of people, and not mere painted savages, as some would have us believe; they had a knowledge of the use of metals, made chariots, coined money, and carried on commerce in tin, lead, &c. They strongly resisted the force of the Roman arms, and were the most difficult to conquer of any tribe; in fact, Yorkshire people have had a strong objection to invaders from time immemorial, and have never given in until they were compelled, either from superior skill or numbers. The country about Leeds lay in the midst of the territory of the Brigantes. The capital of the Brigantine kingdom was called Isurium (now Aldborough, near Boroughbridge), one of their towns was at Slack, near Huddersfield. "Their towns were inaccessible woods, fortified by ditches and ramparts; thus forests served them for cities: they cut down a number of trees to enclose a large circle within which they erected huts and stalls for their cattle, which were not designed for continued use. A rampart of earth, aided by trees cut down for that purpose, formed generally their whole defence, both from the warlike incursions of neighbouring tribes, and the attack of the wild beasts with which the country at early times abounded."\*

"The towns or cities of the Britons were generally built in valleys upon the margin of a stream or river for the convenience of water and security from winds. Some of their dwellings were in the form of pits, from six to eight or even

sixteen to eighteen feet in diameter, with raised borders, and of the depth of three, four, or five feet. Over these pits we must suppose a conical roof to have been formed, made weather-proof by wattling—a covering of rushes or rods; others were oval or circular rings slightly excavated on the heath or drier parts of the common.”\* This Celtic form is still continued in our day in the round corn-stacks with pointed roofs.

Besides their warlike qualities the early Britons were known to be miners in tin and lead, for coal was not yet discovered, or if so, not to any extent, and was not esteemed, for wood was plentiful and more convenient. Mining seems to be a characteristic of a branch of the Celtic race, as instanced in the Welsh people, who are, perhaps, the most purely British in origin, and are noted as expert and clever miners. The Derbyshire people, too, are great lead-miners, and many of them are from the same stock. It is a well-ascertained fact, that many of these tribes fled to the hilly and almost inaccessible parts, rather than submit to the Roman sway.

The Ancient Britons were admired by the Romans for their ingenuity in basket-work, and their articles of manufacture were much prized by foreign nations. The ancient British wicker-boat, called “Coracle” is still in use upon the Wye and other rivers, both of Wales and Ireland. May we not trace the mining and basket-making proclivities of this village to the like source?

The reader will naturally ask, What proof have we of British settlement in this quarter? Well, I have it on the authority of the Rev. R. Burrell, who has paid great attention to the subject, that “the early Britons resided in great numbers in the parish of Stanley, which adjoins Rothwell.” And to come very near home, in October, 1873, a small cup of baked clay was found in the gravel pit in the park of Edmund Calverley, Esq., at Oulton, which had most probably

\* Boothroyd.

been placed in the grave of an early British child. The cup is in an excellent state of preservation, and is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches high, 1 inch deep, and 2 inches across its mouth, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches between its shoulders; the lip is small, and on one side of the cup there are two small holes. Two pieces of very coarse pottery, with lines crossed, were found at the same time and place, certainly British. These finds, however interesting, are not sufficient to prove that there was a British settlement at Oulton; it may be, however, fairly concluded, that the Ancient Britons visited this quarter, probably in pursuit of game, or wandering gipsy-like, had only a temporary abode, and whilst there, a young member of their tribe died, and they buried the body, placing along with it its drinking utensil, as used when living; such was the custom with many barbarous people.

The Ancient Britons came into close contact with nature in all its rugged aspects, and they gave expressive and ever-enduring names to the rivers, hills, and mountains. For instance: Aire (from Eure or Yure) bright water; Ouse (Ures); Ab-ure-ford (Aberford) a confluence of the waters; Calder (Cald-ure), woody water, *i.e.*, passing through a woody country; Wharfe, rough; and so on. Some of the names of common utensils, such as basket, barrow, funnel, pitcher, butter, tassel, gusset, and many very vulgar words used in some of the dialects, and referring to low habits and practices, are of Celtic origin.

On the authority previously quoted,\* it is stated “that four Roman camps are known to have existed in the neighbourhood, viz.:—One at Lofthouse, one at Stanley, one at Lingwell Gate, and a fourth at Altofts.”

It may reasonably, therefore, be supposed that the early Britons were numerous and strong in these parts, and that it required considerable watchfulness on the part of the Roman soldiers to keep them in subjection. There are traces of an artificial earthwork, evidently a Roman camp, from its square

\* Burrell.

form and other characteristics, in a small plantation in Langley Wood, at the back of Lofthouse Hall. Mr. Banks, in his "Walks about Wakefield," based upon the careful scrutiny of the late Charles Forrest, Esq., a shrewd antiquary, very minutely describes it as follows: "The earthworks consist of a mound, a ditch and a central space, measured from north to south the whole is about fifty-five yards, and from east to west about sixty-five. The mound and ditch still remain entire on the north and west, and on the greater part of the south and east sides. At and near the south-east angle, the mound and ditch are levelled almost, perhaps, the way in lay through this part. From the outer edge of the enclosing mound, across the ditch to the top of the bank of the central space, is generally about ten yards, the ditch itself measuring six yards from bank to bank, and four feet at the bottom, and being about two yards deep. But at the western end the ditch is larger, being about ten yards from bank to bank, three yards across the bottom, and three yards deep. The outer mound has a considerable rise on all sides where it exists. It is probably impossible to ascertain in what direction precisely the road passed either way out of the camp, but it is not unlikely to have led westward to Ardsley Upper Street, and eastward to Castleford." At the same place, also, are the Castle Head Well and Castle Head Road, pointing evidently to a time when some fortified building existed near the same camp.

Boothroyd, in his "History of Pontefract," says "That the revolt of the Brigantes, and the triumph of the Romans over them, happened in the seventeenth consulate of Domitian, and about the eighty-first of the Christian era." He remarks, also, that "as they could not confide in the Britons, they fixed their camps on the site of their towns, or near them, and a certain part of a legion was there stationed. The camps of the Romans, which are supposed to have given rise to many of our towns and cities, appear rather to indicate some prior settlement of the Britons."

"Roman coin moulds and coins have been discovered at Lingwell Gate as early as 1697." On the 13th March, 1822, a large quantity of clay moulds\* (more than could be contained in a bushel measure), in which coins had been cast by the Romans for the payment of their soldiers, were turned up by the ploughshare. Four crucibles in excellent preservation were found along with these moulds, in which the metal had doubtless been melted, though having lain there fourteen centuries. Several silver Roman coins have from time to time been picked up in the same situation, and some of them in the identical matrix in which they had been cast.

In 1812 about 40lbs. weight of Roman Copper Coin was dug up in a field upon the estate of the Marquis of Hertford, in the Parish of Stanley, near to which place it is conjectured the Romans had a station. The moulds are of the reigns of Severus, Julia Mæsa, Maximus Cæsar, Alexander Severus, Constantine the Great—dating from about 190—306 A.D.

Lingwell may have been a Roman Station, as it is not far from the supposed road† from Cambodunum (Slack) to Legionum (Castleford), and possibly derived its name from "Lingones," a second cohort of Roman soldiers, the headquarters of which were at Olicana, the modern Ilkley. But it seems more likely that the name comes from the natural features of the place. The village stood (in the memory of its oldest inhabitants) on the verge of an extensive common, which, previous to its enclosure, was covered with *ling* (purple heather flower) bounded by a small stream, fed by numerous springs from which the people obtained a good supply of water; they also had the right of pasture on this common, the entrance to which was a gate leading from the

\* Specimens are now in the possession of Mr. Eli Ely, of Alverthorpe, late of Carlton; and some may be seen in the Leeds Philosophical Hall also.

† The old vicinal road from Morley to Pontefract passes through Lingwell Gate.—BURRELL.

village (Bowman's *Reliquæ Antiquæ Eboracenses*), and so we get Ling-well-gate; it is also called "nook" meaning a sheltered "corner" in the valley.\*

Again, on March 16th, 1870, in digging the foundations of a brewery at Carlton Bridge, near Rothwell, at four and a half yards from the surface, a Roman horse shoe of the well-known frilled pattern was found, and is now in the possession of John Holmes, Esq., of Methley, inclining us to believe that a vicinal or bye-road crossed here leading to the Great Iter or Trunk Road from Manchester to Slack, Dewsbury, Morley, Leeds—or to Wakefield by Cleckheaton, Gildersome, Ardsley, Lingwell, through Lofthouse, Lee Moor, Bottom Boat, and over the ford at Bottom Boat, across the common, down "Bolus" Row, up Ouchthrop Lane, through Stanley Hall Park, and thence to the ford near the dam at Kirkthorp.—BURRELL.

These private roads were narrow, not more than seven feet wide, with wider spaces here and there for carriages to meet and pass.

The Romans were skilled road-makers. They knew the wise policy of constructing great highways; to keep a strict supervision over the Island, with forts at stated distances. They did all according to established plan: so they surveyed and mapped out Britain, and formed a network of roads, the principal ones being remarkably straight and direct; these were accurately divided by milestones, so there is nothing new under the sun; they connected one city with another. Mountains were perforated, and bold arches thrown over the broadest and most rapid streams. These main roads were often paved with regular blocks of stone, flints, or cobbles, in some instances covered with layers of gravel, the substratum being carefully constructed, and in a very solid and substantial manner. The advantage of

\* A large quantity of slag or scoria has been found in digging a garden connected with a cottage occupied by Mr. Bramley, at Lingwell Nook, evidencing ancient smelting works.

receiving the earliest intelligence, and of conveying their orders with celerity, induced the emperors to establish the regular institution of posts. Houses were everywhere erected at a distance of five or six miles; each of these was constantly provided with forty horses, and by the help of these relays it was easy to travel a hundred miles in a day along the Roman roads.

The Romans placed castles near fords where marshes existed so as to protect them. They had four fords across the Calder, and probably Castleford derives its title from this source, but the "castle" is disputed, and some archaeologists assert that it is Castra-ford, the ford near the camp.

In 1823, as some workmen were cutting a new road from Bell Hill to Hunslet, a stone coffin was found on the slope of a gentle declivity. The coffin was of Bramley grit, and measured inside 4 feet 10 inches. It had evidently contained the body of a female, as in it were found several beads of various sizes, colours, and substances, some being of composition, or of amber. The coffin had lain due north, and the body had been covered with a kind of plaster. The burial was undeniably Roman. The coffin did not contain coins which might have furnished dates, but the burial must have taken place before the adoption of Christian rites, when it was common to lay the body north and south, and to put it into a coffin, made of stone, with all its ornaments. The places for burial were both private and public; the private fields or gardens were usually near the highway to be conspicuous, and to remind those who passed of their mortality. Hence the frequent inscriptions, "Siste Viator," "Aspice Viator," "Behold, traveller," "Observe, wayfarer," which are found in the *Viæ* of Rome, and one of which might appear cotemporary with the burial and at the graveside of this unknown Roman female (Wheater).

We have now exhausted the scanty but important traces of Celtic and Roman existence in the surrounding district, if not exactly at the place now called Rothwell.

It is to the Angles, a powerful tribe of the Saxons, who pushed their way up into the northern parts, and eventually gave their name Angle-land or England to the whole island, that we must look as the permanent settlers in this village. They, in 547, with Ida as their chief, established a footing in the North of England between the Humber and the Forth, and formed the great kingdom of North-humberland, the most important of all the Anglo-Saxon settlements. This immense extent of country was divided into two kingdoms, called Bernicia and Diera,\* the latter name expressing its wild condition. Rothwell was a spot in the southern kingdom.

The proof of its Saxon occupation is stamped unmistakeably on the names of the places in and about here: which are decidedly from a Teutonic source, and portray the general aspect of the country as first seen by these ancient name-givers. In order to distinguish certain localities from each other they would of necessity pitch upon natural features chiefly, as no other marks were available before buildings of a prominent kind were erected.

Drinking water, one of the chief requisites of human sustenance, would be of paramount importance to the first settlers; and they would erect their dwellings not far from it—hence the word “well,” so frequently used in names of places about here.\*

\* The word deer is derived from this source.

\* Wells were much thought of, and many were named after certain noted people, either saints or outlaws, such as Robin Hood's Well between Ferrybridge and Doncaster, and important personages honoured it by drinking of its clear water. I am informed by Mr. George Armitage, of Robin Hood, that when his father commenced quarrying stone there in 1824 they discovered a well on the front of which were inscribed in Roman capitals, “R. H.” It contained a shallow iron basin, and was situated near the road-side for the use of the people, and was reputed to have been drunk at by the renowned freebooter, Robin Hood, when visiting this place, hence the name. It is now in part of an unused quarry, and covered up.

Rothwell, situated, probably, in a well wooded and watered valley, sheltered from the piercing winds, would be a very desirable place to live in. The derivation of the name has been variously accounted for, but not quite satisfactorily. It was spelled “Rodewelle,” evidently its established name according to the Domesday Survey at that early date (1086). In Anglo-Saxon, “rode” signifies a cross, and “welle” a spring of water. Hence, Rothwell may mean the cross well; now cross may stand also for the church as its sign, and so it becomes the “Church Well.” To corroborate this idea we will quote the following pertinent remarks from “Miller's History of the Anglo-Saxons”—“A rude wooden cross planted by the roadside, a humble cell scooped out of the rock, or a wattled shed, thatched with the tufted rushes or the broad-leaved water-flags, first marked the places of worship of the primitive Christians.”

Christianity was introduced into Britain as early as 60 A.D. Dr. Hook, in his “Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury,” states that “the northern half of Anglo-Saxon Britain was indebted for its conversion to Christianity, not to Augustine and the Italian mission, but to the Celtic missionaries who passed through Bernicia and ‘Diera’ into East Anglia, Mercia, and even Wessex.” We have the testimony of Tertullian, one of the early fathers, who, speaking about Britain, says, “though often inaccessible to Roman arms, it was subdued by Christ.”

Crosses were erected for a variety of purposes after the introduction of Christianity, chiefly, however, to symbolise the death of Christ. In many instances, to induce honesty by the sanction of religion, they were put up in market places; they also served as land-marks, that men might learn to respect and hold sacred the boundaries of another's property, so that they became very common, and were placed almost in every churchyard. Bishop Horn, considering them a mark of Popery, “ordered them all to be swept down.” May we not suppose that formerly these crosses were the

rallying place for Christian worship ? and virtually became the nucleus of a church, the sacred ground on which it was afterwards reared.\*

But to resume our subject, the definition given by Dr. Whitaker, and copied so slavishly by others, we throw aside as simply absurd. He says it means " bubbling well," " Roth or Ruth signifying the sound produced by the ebullition of a copious fountain." The prefix " Rod " and " Roth " have been applied to such words as " ham " and " ley," Saxon words meaning " home " and " field," then how can the Doctor's meaning hold good ? Again, others have wanted to make the " Rude " or " Roth " mean " red," and in a far-fetched manner have used their imagination to tinge the whole physical scene with this decided and marked colour, so as to cause the first beholders to designate it " red," they say from the heather flowers, which we submit did not grow in that profuse abundance, or if they did, gave rather a purple aspect to the whole scene: neither can it be proved that the ground partook of this colour, as the land is of a clayey character, nor that the well itself was red with the iron mixture often seen at the bottom of certain springs; such is not known to exist in this instance.

Further, the name of the place has been written in various documents " Rowell," " Roodwell," " Rouelle," and original so on, which are the natural outcome of the " Rodewelle ;" for, in olden times, before fixed laws of spelling were in force, people spelled according as the name sounded to their ears. It was not until 1570 that " Rothwell " appears in the Church Registers, and this must again upset the Doctor's theory. Possibly, the Doctor may have observed in his visitation the name " Wrothwel " inscribed on the font, and so jumped at his conclusion without further research.

\* Dr. Whitaker, in his account of Dewsbury, observes :—" Though churches were not immediately erected on the sites of memorable events, crosses were."

The transformation of Rodewelle into Rothwell is easy of explanation. The Anglo-Saxon " d " was afterwards turned into " th "; for examples: " fader," now father; " bredren," brethren, and so on. So Rodwell, in comparatively modern times, became to be pronounced Rothwell; " Medley," Methley, as being considered more smooth and proper. We assert, accordingly, that the common and vulgar pronunciation, " Rod-ell," may safely be said to be the original name spoken short.

The Saxon Conquest was slow, but sure; and many petty battles were fought in this neighbourhood betwixt rival princes. Edwin I., the Christian King of Northumbria, styled Bretwalda V., reigned; and at this time, Paulinus, the great northern missionary, in 625, visited this district under the auspices of Edwin. He was diligently employed in preaching and baptising throughout the province of Diera and Bernicia, and vast multitudes flocked to him to receive the ordinance of baptism, and he usually chose the banks of rivers as the scene of his ministry for the convenience of baptism. His presence at Dewsbury is, moreover, attested by a cross, about 625.

The neighbouring pagan king Penda, of Mercia, assisted by Cadwalla, King of North Wales, October 4th, in 633, fought at Hatfield Chase, in which Edwin was slain. Cadwalla fell in a battle against Oswald, after having been engaged in fourteen great battles and sixty skirmishes. Penda destroyed three kings of East Anglia in 643, but was killed in a battle against Oswy, in 655, at Winwidfield, said to be Winmoor, near Leeds. Thirty men of royal race, some of whom were kings, were slain with the wretched Penda, and it is recorded that the retreating Mercians crowded over the river Aire at Woodlesford.

We will now turn from these scenes of semi-barbarism to those of a more peaceful nature, and consider the mode of government, adopted by the more civilised Anglo-Saxons.

In 827, their several kingdoms were consolidated under

the kingship of Egbert, who was styled King of all England.

During the reign of Alfred, justly called the Great, (871 A.D.—901.) England became prosperous, and peace upon the whole was maintained. Alfred proved himself a far-seeing organizer, turning his attention to the reformation of abuses, and the equitable administration of justice. He is credited with the institution of that bulwark of English liberty—trial by jury. He encouraged learning, and was a great friend of the Church. “That he might render the execution of justice strict and regular, he divided all England into counties, these he sub-divided into hundreds, and the hundreds into tithings. Every householder was answerable for the behaviour of his family, and slaves, and even of his guests, if they lived above three days in his house. Ten neighbouring householders were formed into one corporation, who, under the name of a tithing, were answerable for each other’s conduct, and over whom one person, called a tithing man, was appointed to preside. Every man was punished as an outlaw, who did not register himself in some tithing. And no man could change his habitation, without a warrant or certificate from the tithing to which he formerly belonged.”\* The term borough, in its original Saxon borgh, is said by Bracton to signify primarily a tything, or a company of ten families of freemen who were bound together as each other’s pledge, and hence a pledge is called “borh.” It is not improbable that the ancient tythings, were nearly of equal extent with our present townships, and the bounds of our present boroughs. Mr. G. A. Reynolds, deputy-solicitor to the lord of the manor, has kindly furnished me with the following legal definitions bearing upon this part of the subject.

“Leet—Leta, otherwise called a Law-Day, appears to be derived from the Saxon word Læo. By the laws of King Edward, set out by Lambert, it was a court of jurisdiction above the wapentake or hundred. Many lords, together with

\* Hume.

their court baron, have likewise leets adjoined, and thereby do inquire of such transgressions as are subject to the inquiry and correction of this court. But in wheresoever manor it be kept, it is accounted the king’s court, because the authority thereof originally belonged to the crown. It is said that this ‘leet’ was first derived from the sheriff’s court; and it inquireth of all offences under high treason committed against the crown and dignity of the king, though it cannot punish many, but must certify them to the justices of assize, and it is called the ‘View of Frankpledge,’ for that the king there may be certified, by the view of the steward, how many people are within every leet, and also have an account of their good manners and government. And every person of the age of twelve years, which had remained there a year and a day, to be sworn to be faithful to the king, and also to keep the people in peace and obedience. A court baron is incident to and inseparable from a manor. These courts were ordained to determine injuries, trespasses, debts, and other actions that are under forty shillings. The homage ought to inquire in this court that their lords shall not lose their services, customs, or duties, but make their suits in this court, as obedience to their lords, and present all common or private nuisance.”

For the etymology of the word manor, some fancy it to be derived from *manurium*, a manuring the ground, but others think (with more probability) that it comes from the French word “mesner,” to govern or guide, because the lord hath the government of the tenants within his jurisdiction. With reference to the word “Frankpledge,” Tomlins in his “Law Dictionary” gives the following:—“*Franciplegium*—A pledge or surety for the behaviour of freemen, it being the ancient custom of this kingdom, borrowed from the Lombards, that for the preservation of the public peace every free-born man at the age of fourteen (religious persons, clerks, &c., excepted) should give security for his truth towards the king and his subjects, or be

committed to prison. Whereupon a certain number of neighbours usually became bound one for the other, to see each man of their pledge forthcoming at all times, or to answer the transgression done by any gone away. And wherever any one offended, it was forthwith enquired in what pledge he was, and then those of that pledge, either produced the offender within thirty-one days or satisfied for his offence. This was termed Frankpledge; and this custom was so kept, that the sheriffs, at every county court, did, from time to time, take the oaths of young persons as they grew to fourteen years of age, and see that they were settled in one decennary or other, whereby this branch of the sheriff's authority was called 'Vesus franci plege,' or 'View of Frankpledge.'

At this day no man ordinarily giveth other security for the keeping of the peace than his own oath, so that none answereth for the transgression of another, but every person for himself: hiring under "Frankpledge" has been termed living under law.

Again, "leet" may be derived from leod plebs, and mean the populi curia, or folk-mote, as the sheriff's turn or leet of the county, perhaps so designated to distinguish it from the Halmote or court baron, which consisted of the free tenants only, who, being few in number, might conveniently assemble in the lord's hall, whereas the "leet," which required the attendance of all the residents within the particular hundred, lordship, or manor, and concerned the administration of public justice, was usually held in the open air.

England was divided into hides, about 274,950 in number, and a hide of land containing 100 or 120 acres supported a free family, ten such free families constituted a tything, ten or twelve tythings a hundred, and an indefinite number of hundreds a *shire*.

The country had to be guarded from invading foes, which were numerous and greedy. We come across the term wapentake (Rothwell is in the wapentake of Lower Agbrigg). This

at first was a military muster; the hundreder, or chief of the district, appointed a certain place, at stated periods, where all eligible to bear arms, being free or franklinmen, and all youths free and above fourteen years of age, were to assemble, take their weapons, or wapentake, to be drilled, and to have their arms properly examined, and thus the defensive strength of the country was ascertained. As a sign of submission to their chief's orders, they touched his shield with their spears, and probably a stone or centre, by which they swore allegiance to their king. The district from which this national militia was drawn was christened the wapentake, and so remains to this day, chiefly as a police division.

The Court Leet, View of Frankpledge, and High Court Baron,\* still continues in our village, and its origin is Anglo-Saxon. On this point I quote from Mr. Constable, at Otley. He states "that the origin and privileges of the Court Leet were granted by King Athelstane about 920. The ancient duties are those which are now usually performed by the magistracy and by local boards, and no doubt the rights of all Court Leets would have fallen into desuetude but for the fact that it would not pay anybody to interfere with them. It is popularly supposed that the legal rights of Courts Leet were a mere myth, but this was a gross error, for the Acts of Parliament granting them were still in existence, and the fealties payable upon the transfer of pro-

\* It is held at the "Coach and Horses," the property of Edmund Calverley, Esq., Lord of the Manor, but formerly and appropriately at the Manor House, near the church. It is only right to add that the jury of twelve are rewarded for their not very onerous duties with a good dinner at the expense of the Lord of the Manor. Any new jurymen is considered as a colt, that is "untrained" in the usages of the proceedings, and has to pay five shillings for the entertainment of the company and for the good of the landlord of the house. Any one summoned not answering to the call, or producing his "essoign," that is a legal excuse for non-appearance, is accordingly amerced. But the number of copyholders are getting less every year, and in time this Court will become unnecessary.

erty in the manor could be strictly enforced when payment was refused. This Law Court Meeting is now entirely the Lord of the Manor's Court, and the jury are summoned by his bailiff to decide matters exclusively relating to the Manor. It has to do with copyholders, who hold their property direct from the Lord of the Manor. If any one has died during the interim of last meeting, the next heir-at-law has to pay fine or fealty to the Lord, probably one and a-half years' rent, but the terms are different in different places.\* Copyhold property can be redeemed by the payment in this quarter of five years' rent, so I am given to understand. The other business of the Court is to decide disputes respecting boundaries, encroachments, and water-courses, &c., if there be any. The High Court is an adoption of the Normans, who retained what was excellent then existing for their own use, but they always minded to put a veto upon it, and so it became High Court *Baron*, authorised and sanctioned by the king or chief baron of the realm. Other somewhat trivial things are arranged at this Court, such as the election of Pinders for the various townships in the parish, and the appointment of the Bell-man. Formerly any stray or waif cattle which had lost its owner was taken to the Manor House fold, and used by the Lord of the Manor until an owner turned up; if not claimed within a certain time, it became the lord's property. Soon after being found, to mark it, a feather was put into the animal's tail, but now they are advertised. The poundage charged is the ancient fourpence on each head of cattle, and no more can legally be enforced, though money value has immensely advanced. Formerly weights and measures were tested at this Court, and the village Constable sworn in, but now

\* At the first property was held or acquired on account of military services rendered. Other matters at home, with the increase of population, were required to be attended to, so the lord mitigated these services for those of a more peaceful nature, and they were paid in kind. This afterwards proving clumsy and irksome, was commuted into money equivalents.

this business is transferred to the West Riding police authorities.

Saxon society was divided into Thanes, answering to noblemen, and Coerls, chiefly husbandmen and inferior tenants, not slaves, but free-men; the rest were virtually slaves, and sold and transferred like goods or chattels, they were called Theowes or Servi.

The Saxons were eminently an agricultural people, and many of their names refer to the country and to farming pursuits.\* They were social and fond of home; they loved good living, drank deeply of ale, and were somewhat gross in their habits and speech. Such traits have not yet disappeared from our village, which is still mainly agricultural. These Saxons gloried in keeping up old customs, and many which can be traced to them are still lingering amongst us.†

As most of the names about here come from an Anglo-Saxon source we will now refer to them, giving their original meanings. Before doing so, we would remark that Names seem almost imperishable. When everything else becomes strangely altered they are preserved with wonderful tenacity, and in many instances embody as it were history in a nutshell. When the object or cause which brought about that name is done away with or becomes obsolete, the original designation is retained, and therefore the study of local etymology becomes highly interesting and instructive, illustrating often the perceptions, habits, and employments of our forefathers.

\* The Saxon names of the months were expressive of the weather and crops, &c.

† A curious writer on this point says:—"The Saxons, who succeeded the Romans in this country, were so far from having art, that they could not even build with stone. The church at Glaston was thatched. They lived sluttishly in poor houses, where they ate a great deal of beefe and mutton, and drank good ale in a brown muzzard, and their very kings were but a sort of farmers. The Normans then came and taught them civility and building."

"Welle," a spring of water, Rothwell (Rodewelle) Cross, by the well; Lingwell: ling, heather; Ouzelwell-Green, the green or open space near the well, where the bird *ouzel*, fond of marshy spots, used to frequent, the first word distinguishing the kind of well and its surroundings. *Royds* is used to describe a clearance in a forest. Mr. C. Federer writes that, "on the arrival of the Saxons, they found Yorkshire a wilderness of moor, forest, and fen, in which the new settler had many difficulties to contend with, as the backwoodsman in the wilds of North America. Their first work was to hew down the trees, burn out the stumps, remove the undergrowth, collect the stones, in short to form a clearing, which was named a rydding, ridding, rodding, or royd." *Thwaite*, a Norse word of similar meaning, a wood grubbed up and turned to arable land.

*Ton*, or *Tun*, signified an enclosed number of dwellings by hedge or palisade, chiefly a farm-stead at that time. *Carlton*, the dwellings of the coerls or churls, inferior people, mainly tillers of the land. *Middleton*, the middle congregation of houses or huts half way betwixt Rothwell and Morley, these places being more closely connected formerly. *Oulton*, probably old town; but it has been spelled *Out-ton* (out town), perhaps outside Rothwell, like Outwood, near Wakefield. *Garth*,\* a yard or small close, as Manor Garth. *Croft*, a small farm or close, intended for pasturage or tillage, as Dodge Croft. *Thorpe*, or *Thrup*, a farming village, as it still remains. *Gate* (Danish), the road or street to a place. Gate is now applied to the bar or entrance to a place, but the word really means the road itself, as Lingwell Gate, the road to the ling-well. *Loft-house Gate*: the way to the place where there was one house a storey higher than the others, and so the village became marked, the dwellings as a rule then being only of one storey. *Hungate* (at Methley): the gate leading to the kennel where the hounds or hunting dogs

\* It signified also a place formed at the side of a river, that the fish might be the more easily taken (*Liber Albus*).

were kept. Hunslet: the meeting of the hounds, a rendezvous from whence these dogs were taken for hunting purposes, where they were bred and kept ready for use when required by the lord or his royal visitors. They may have also been useful and necessary as a protection for travellers crossing the wild moors on to Rothwell Haigh, which was infested with wild beasts, and probably robbers.\*

*Ginnel* (Celtic): a narrow passage between two houses. *Woggan*: a wagon way between two buildings. (*Fleet*) Mills, from fletan (Anglo-Saxon), swift, running, referring to the rapidity of the stream. *Shaw*: a wood. *Shaw-fold*: probably a sheep-fold near or in the wood. *Shaw-ditch*: a trench near the wood. *Bell-Hill*: the high part of the road from Rothwell Haigh to Hunslet, a "beautiful" hill, on account of its extensive and charming prospect at the time. *Gill-et* (Bridge): the confluence of small waters or streams. *Carr* (Lane): a low watering place, or a pool, where alders may have grown. *Woodlesford*, formerly spelled Windlesford, *Wrigglesworth*, and sometimes *Woodford*, means the ford in the dell near the wood, probably alluding to the Roman ford which went across the river Aire near Swillington Bridge.

In regard to personal names, it must be borne in mind that places were often named after their owners or the chief family which resided there, which at the first were given to persons from their individual peculiarities or qualifications and to ensure identification. This was the Saxon mode; but the Normans were often called after the places of their birth or adoption.

Rothwell Haigh,† or Haye, signifying a hedge, was

\* As late as 1712, in the registers we meet with "Lee Moor Gate;" 1747, Wakefield Wood Gate.

† Rodwell Haye, or Hague, a village adjoining to Rothwell, the estate of the family De la Haye, one of the Saxon vassals, whose daughter and heir by marriage carried it to Richard Hopton, Esq. It was anciently a park for deer, as appears by part of the pale remaining. King Henry VIII. gave it to Thomas Lord Darcy, by the name of Rodwell Park.

anciently a Saxon hunting ground. By one of the De Lacies it was turned into an enclosed park, and used by several of the Norman and Plantagenet kings for hunting purposes. It may have been fenced with rails. It is said that a white hart and other deer were amongst its denizens. The Normans were passionately fond of hunting, but reserved the practice and privilege to themselves or favoured friends. The royal grant of free warren, that is, to hunt and kill certain game, such as the hare, the coney, the pheasant, and the partridge, was considered a mark of great honour.

Forest Laws were extremely severe and minute. The punishment for killing deer consisted of putting out the eyes of the offender, castration, or death, according to the degree or status of the culprit.

Parishes were early formed in Saxon times, and were placed under the care of a priest, presbyter, or vicar. In Edward the Confessor's time there were in England 10,000 parishes. The breadth of Rothwell Parish at its broadest part across Rothwell, Rothwell Haigh, Middleton, Oulton-cum-Woodlesford, Thorpe, Carlton-cum-Lofthouse, from Middleton Mill, on the west, to Fleet Mill, on the east, is five miles and 1400 yards. This is a large parish, and before the churches at Middleton, Oulton, and Woodlesford were built, Rothwell church would be a very important structure.

From the beginning the old boundaries have been maintained, for it was a law of the Northmen not to disturb the old landmarks. Removers of boundary stones were buried up to the neck in the earth and ploughed to death; we may therefore conclude that buildings of importance,

We also meet with the following (1531):—"Exemplification of a recovery of Temple Newsam, Rothwell, Rothwell Haye, Birkinshaw Manors, and 60 messuages, one water mill, 1000 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 2000 acres of pasture, 200 acres of wood, 400 acres of furze and heath, and £11, in Michaelmas Term, 22nd Henry VIII., between Edward Earl of Derby, defendant, and Thomas Lord Darcy, tenant. Thomas Chapman, voucher."

when falling into decay, would be rebuilt on or near the ground occupied by the former ones.

Parsons, in his History of Leeds, speaking of Rothwell Parish, says that "it was a place of importance in the time of the Saxons, demonstrated by the fact that it became a parish separated from the original one at Morley, and was therefore most likely the centre of a considerable population. The spiritual necessities of the district required more churches, and therefore Rothwell became an ecclesiastical centre for the neighbouring villages around. Its separation was accomplished by one of the early Lacies."

"Rothwell was enumerated amongst the Parishes and Chapelries within the Pontefract Deanery. The formation of the See of Ripon necessarily altered the old ecclesiastical boundaries" (Bell). It is now included in the Archdeaconry of Craven and in the Rural Deanery of Wakefield.

We pass over the occupation and conquest of the Danes, a rapacious and cruel race of people. Though affecting many parts of Yorkshire, yet they made few impressions in the immediate inland part. They settled more on the east coast, which is amply tested by the names of "by," "wic," &c., truly of Scandinavian or Norse nomenclature. They were a seafaring nation, and took chief delight in roaming on the wild waves, dwelling near navigable rivers or by the sea coast. The Angles who peopled this quarter, and came from the same geographical district, were their near neighbours, and partook largely of their characteristics, used their language, laws, and customs, so that it becomes difficult to separate them or to show the lines of demarcation, they blended so closely with each other.

William of Normandy, believing that he had a claim to the English throne on the death of Edward the Confessor, 1066, which he said was promised to him by the king during his lifetime, on hearing that Harold had allowed himself to be crowned, collected a great army for invasion. As an inducement, he promised "broad manors, castles, titles, pillage,

&c. Some joined on regular pay, some on the simple condition of license to plunder, some on the promise of a Saxon heiress in marriage. Outlaws and thieves, humble villeins and serfs, of Gallic and Frankish blood, saw a chance of ‘founding a family.’ Proud and poor Norman barons, Breton, Flemish, Anjevin counts, had already marked for themselves those Saxon estates which suited their cupidity.” He landed on the English shores at Hastings, but the battle was fought about seven miles distant, at Senlac, and was one of the most decisive battles on record.\* Harold was slain, and William the Conqueror was immediately crowned King of England.

This was a complete and final conquest, and in 1066 the real History of England begins.

William especially seized on all the lands of the English nobles or earls who had fought against him, and confiscated their property, parcelling it out to his faithful followers according to their merits.

In the year after the coronation, 1067, a revolt took place in the north. The Northumbrians did not cheerfully acknowledge William’s sovereignty, and fully believed him to be an usurper. They were constantly plotting against his authority, and, assisted by the Danes and Scots, who were ready for any occasion, laid siege to the Castle of York, then commanded by one of the Norman chiefs, named William Malet. As a rule the extreme parts, furthest from the seat of government, were the most difficult to govern, and caused the greatest anxiety to the crown.

William, on hearing of the rebellion, swore his usual profane oath, that by the “splendour of God’s countenance” he would “pierce all Northumbria with a single

\* It is affirmed as the reason of William the Bastard’s comparatively easy victory and conquest of the country in so short a period, that castles or fortresses were somewhat rare, and so the Saxons could not hold out. They were certainly neither castle or bridge builders. It is said that they rarely used stone.

spear,” and that he would not leave one Northumbrian alive to stir up future insurrections. This horrible threat he carried out completely, and with terrible ferociousness, illustrating the cruelty and savageness of his self-willed nature and his utter disregard of human life. All who came within his path, both peaceful and warlike, innocent women, children, and the aged, because they lived in a certain district, were murdered in cold blood, and every implement of agriculture and means of subsistence were thoroughly destroyed, and their growing crops burnt and rooted up by his imperial orders. In our day we are horror-stricken with the recital of Turkish atrocities, but the relentless king’s doings put these into the shade. Happily fiendish actions like these meet in our day with universal condemnation, and civilization shudders at the account. But to resume, so thoroughly was the vengeance of the Conqueror wreaked, that Northumbria was literally depopulated. It is said that, what with fire, sword, and famine, 100,000 persons perished, and that for the space of nine years the immense tract of country, extending from the Humber to the Tyne, was reduced to a desert, and historians, after the lapse of nearly one hundred years, relate that it still remained a wilderness in their day. The terms “waste,” “waste,” as recorded in the Domesday Book, have a fearful significance.

It is said that the Conqueror spared Leeds in his ravages, but it appears that the parish of Rothwell suffered.

On arriving at Pontefract, William found that the river Calder, swollen by autumnal rains, was unfordable, and through its torrent-like character impassable by boats.\* Some counselled a retreat, others the construction of a bridge. He would listen to neither, but remained sullenly inactive for three weeks, meditating plans of vengeance.

At the end of this period, one of the knights in his army, having patiently examined the channel of the river,

\* Ordericus Vitalicus, iv., 5.

found a place where it was fordable, and crossing over with sixty men-at-arms, encountered and put to flight a small body of Northumbrians, and then the Norman forces crossed the river. The difficulties and dangers of the route were very great. They had to pass through forests and marshes, over hills and along valleys, where the paths were sometimes so narrow that two soldiers could not march abreast.

During the Conqueror's enforced residence in Pontefract, it is not difficult to determine who was the originator of the Castle of Pontefract.

His quick eye, and consummate knowledge of military affairs, would at once discover the impregnability of a fortress placed upon such a site; and although the erection of the works was conducted under the rule of De Lacy, we cannot hesitate to believe it was at the suggestion of William himself that the site was selected.\*

After the fall of York, 1070, the subjugation of Northumberland and the whole of England became complete.

Prominent amongst those lieutenants who had brought about this result was Ilbert de Lacy, who defeated the men of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and subdued all the country between Pontefract and Blackburn in Lancashire. For this signal service his royal master gave or granted him the whole tract of country he had brought under subjection for his barony, which included nearly 200 manors, berewicks, and sokes. Ilbert de Lacy in his turn sublet, or rather gave, on certain conditions, to his followers or retainers ample shares of the lands which he had won. Some of them he made tenants-in-chief, and others received free grants of the lands formerly belonging to the Saxon freeholders.

The feudal system in all its ramifications was completely established in England under the Norman rule. Land was held on condition of suit and service, chiefly military; and it is reported that William, by this stroke of policy, obtained

\* Wheater.

the services of sixty thousand knights, ready to defend the country when required, and so he virtually had an army the cost of which did not fall upon the crown. All persons holding knight's fees were bound to be in readiness to attend their sovereign for forty days' service every year.\* When foreign or other wars lasted beyond this period, military services were commuted for by money payment, called scutage. The king hired soldiers, and thus was instituted a standing army. Feudal services were finally abolished by statute, 12th Charles II., c. 24.

William, when firmly seated on the throne, by the advice of his Parliament, in order to prevent fraud in the tribute due from the crown lands, ordered a survey to be made (which was really a continuance of one started in Edward the Confessor's reign) of all the lands and tenements held in capite or otherwise, called the Domesday Book; and though this did not include all England, yet it refers to this quarter, and is so far interesting and valuable as an ancient, though limited account of the district.

We will now proceed to transcribe from this rare and important book that portion which immediately concerns us. It states thus:—

" Morleia Wapentake, IIII. Manors. In Rodewelle and Lostose, Carlentone, Torp, and Mildtone, there are twenty-four carucates of land and one ox-gang to be taxed, and there may be twelve ploughs there. Harold (fourteen carucates); Bared, seven carucates and a-half; Alric, ten ox-gangs and a-half; and Stainulf (ten ox-gangs and a-half), had halls there. Ilbert has now two ploughs there and sixteen villanes, and one bordar with eight ploughs, and one mill of two shillings, and nine acres of meadow; wood

\* The value of a knight's fee was not always the same, it varied according to the beneficence of the king, or of those that held of him in capite; originally, however, in the reign of the Conqueror, it was probably £20 per annum, and a certain number of these fees was required to make up a barony.

pasture, two miles long and one broad. The whole manors, two miles long and two broad, value in King Edward's time eight pounds, now sixty-five shillings.”\*

It will be well to try to explain the various terms used. “The manor was what Bede had called the ‘place’ (*locus*), in the midst of which the churches were built or the old temples had stood; the village and surrounding neighbourhood, where the people lived for the sake of society and of defence, with their head man or Thane, dwelling in his spacious hall, built of wood by the bondmen from his demesne (estate), covered with reeds and straw, or a roof of wooden shingles, through which the smoke from the hearth ascended. This hall often became a stone mansion and the home of the chief-tenant, a castle in the period immediately following the Norman Conquest.”

“The lord, resident either in a castle, with its keep and moat, in a hall, or in a fortified house, and his court, encroaching on the hundred court, for a time gave a new character and name to the township, the priest-shire or the parish; but it is much more probable that the old subdivisions, which had existed for centuries, and are sometimes named ‘vils’ in the reign of Edward the Confessor, were chosen as the limit of the manor.”

I am now indebted to Mr. Wheater, who admirably and most ably explains the matter, from which I quote rather largely. “Thus it appears at the Conquest, Rothwell was rated at a higher value than Leeds, but it certainly did not contain so large a population (Leeds had about 300 inhabitants, and was a farming village), yet both as regards rating and population Rothwell stood considerably above the neighbouring villages. Morley was rated at 6*os.*, Ardsley at 3*os.*, Beeston at 4*os.*, Methley 6*os.*, Leeds at £6, Rothwell at £8.”

\* The pound sterling at that time was a pound weight in troy of silver, and its intrinsic value was about one hundred times more than £1 of the present day.

In the Confessor’s time seven Thanes held Leeds while four held Rothwell. Both Leeds and Rothwell contained a mill, but that of Leeds was of the greater value. Both of them possessed *soke*, the territory of the *soke* of Rothwell being perhaps bounded on the north-west by that of Leeds, on the north by that of Kippax. Thus:—“In Coleton (Colton), Archill, Godwin and Godwin, Tor and Ulstan, had four and a-half carucates to be taxed. There is land to four ploughs. Nine ox-gangs of this land are in the *soke* of Rodouelle (Rothwell). Two vassals of Osbern’s (De Arches) have now there five borders with one plough.”

It seems from this entry that nine ox-gangs of land in the township of Colton, on the north side of the river Aire, were in the *Soke* of Rothwell. Now *soke* or *sok* implies the power or liberty to minister justice and execute the law, and also the circuit or territory where such power extends, whence the law-Latin word is used for a seignory or lordship enfranchised by the king, with the liberty of holding or keeping a court of his *sokmen*. The word *soc* also means a plough; then *sockage*, that is tenure, by which tenants held their lands, to plough the lands of their lord with their own ploughs, and to do other inferior services of husbandry at their own charge. Therefore it seems that the Saxon Thane who possessed Rothwell was a man of much greater importance than a simple landlord, and one who perhaps administered the law over a vast extent of country. If so, it is not improbable that his place of residence was of equal importance with its lord. Before dismissing this part of the subject, we may mention that the ancient water mill for grinding corn still exists, and is situated in Shaw Ditch, and is from the appearance of the buildings, the oldest inhabited part of Rothwell. All parties within the *soke* were compelled to bring their grain to this mill to be ground. This was a profit to the lord of the manor who held the monopoly, the charge for grinding being about a sixteenth of the value of the grain brought

for that purpose. I am informed by Mr. Barrett, the present miller, that about 200 years ago the mill was rebuilt, during which a sad calamity happened to a man named Gasgill, a carpenter, who was assisting to build it, who fell and was killed. Some of his descendants are now living at Lofthouse.

"The site of Harold's Hall is no doubt indicated by the pile of crumbling stones which still remain of the manor castle built at Rothwell, near the church, in latter times. At the period of the Domesday Survey, the 'hall' or 'manse,' or 'hall house,' as it has been called, was the usual appendage of a manor, and the circumstances of the Conquest will readily lead us to suppose that as soon as the Lacies obtained possession of their territories they adopted such of the existing institutions as would properly answer their purpose. Harold's Hall had been the seat of government in olden times for a considerable district, and now that Harold's power had been transferred to De Lacy as tenant in capite of the newly created Honour of Pontefract, of which Rothwell formed a part, it was doubtless from beneath the Saxon's roof that the Norman lord first issued his decree to those who were bound to assist him in the maintenance of his authority."

Those who held their lands immediately from the king were said to hold them "in capite" (that is direct from the head); but those who held in capite had other chiefs or lords, or barons, subordinate to them, to whom they granted portions of their lands. These intermediate persons were denominated "mesne" lords, of whom frequent mention is made. Even these divided their lands amongst their retainers; and every lordship or manor, was divided into two parts, the one to be kept for his own support, and be partly cultivated by his villanes and copyholders, and called his demesne; the other part to be parcelled out amongst his dependants, who returned him their services. In the vast possessions of the De Lacies we find this plan often adopted. To have estab-

lished one demesne, that at Pontefract, in such an extensive tenancy as the Honor of Pontefract, would have been to render the performance of their military service almost impossible to the distant feudatories, and in the settlement of such legal matters as were to be disposed of in the lord's courts, difficulties and delays would have arisen which were obviously too serious to admit of such an arrangement. A series of demesnes, where the lord erected his manor houses, and appointed his own officers, were therefore constituted.

The townships of Oulton and Woodlesford, Royds Green, and Rothwell Haigh, are not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, though they were certainly included in the parish, but their omission may be accounted for. Royds would be thus a wood, and so was exempt from taxes in 1086.

Rothwell Haigh was a hunting ground, and in Norman times, forests, consisting of woody and desert tracts, which having never been disposed of in the first distribution of lands, were considered as belonging to the crown. At the time of the survey the jurors might not return Rothwell Haigh as a member of Ilbert De Lacy's manor of Rothwell, under the supposition that the king would claim it as a royal hunting ground, and it is somewhat singular that in the Domesday enumeration of persons holding parks, besides the king, no mention is made of Ilbert De Lacy's name.

"Anterior to the Norman Conquest the arable lands of the whole manor were prepared by twelve ploughs, but the total land tilled by those ploughs is uncertain. The superficial extent of a 'carucate' of land has not been satisfactorily settled. It is said that in Domesday Book the arable land is estimated in carucates, the pasture in hides, and the meadow in acres. Parts of this division are entirely at variance with the Saxon custom, for with the Saxons the 'hide' measured the arable land, and the name 'carucate,' which is a later invention, ought to be synonymous with 'hide.' All agree that the 'carucate,' or 'hide,' contained as much land as one plough could, by ordinary course of

husbandry, prepare for the yearly purposes of agriculture, but this must necessarily vary according to the nature of the soil. Bishop Kennett says that in 1169 a hide of land at Chesterton contained 64 acres. Some have made the hide to contain 160 acres, but the inconsistency of this assertion is obvious to all who are acquainted with the art of agriculture. Besides, accepting the number of hides in England, said to be 243,600, and according to a series of calculations, delivered to a select committee of the House of Commons, England contained, in 1827, 10,252,800 acres of arable and garden land, which makes the hide the measure of arable land contain nearly 43 acres. The approximate value of the Saxon acre was one day's work for a plough and oxen, that is about a statute acre. Forty-three statute acres are as much as one plough can till per year, even when drawn by horses."

But in the case of Rothwell, if a carucate of land was as much as one plough could till, it is quite certain the twelve ploughs which were said to be in the parish could not cultivate the  $24\frac{1}{2}$  carucates which were taxed. There are grounds, however, for supposing that under the Saxon system of agriculture one half of the land lay fallow while the other half was in crop, and that being the rule, twelve ploughs were just sufficient.

We may therefore suppose the Saxons had not much more than one thousand acres of land in the whole parish of Rothwell, that is about one-ninth part under cultivation. The area of the parish, according to the Ordnance Survey, is 9009a. 2r. 4p.

Besides the cultivated lands, there is wood pasture two miles long and one broad, or two square miles, that is 1280 acres. This would leave 6700 acres entirely out of the hands of the husbandman, but from this quantity we must perhaps take the area of the township of Oulton-cum-Woodlesford, 1360a. 2r. 31p., for it appears as if that township was not included in Domesday.

The main object of this Domesday Register was to estimate what was taxable to the king, and therefore paid no attention to the social condition of the people, only as far as they were slaves or bondmen and were of profitable use. Neither is the general appearance of the country described, which would have been so valuable to historians generally. Incidentally it alludes to "villanes" and "bordars." The villani were predial slaves, who cultivated the lands of their masters. Probably the term village may have come from this source, as being the part occupied by this class of people. They were evidently considered very degraded, seeing that the odious title "villain," which we now apply to despicable characters, springs from the name. The Bordarri were a kind of upper domestic servants, who waited at the table (then called bord) and performed other offices in their masters' houses. They resided in huts of their own, to which little gardens and parcels of land were annexed, as the fee or reward of their services. Another grade existed also, named the Cottarii, called so because they dwelt in small huts or cottages near to the mansions of their lords. They were persons who had been instructed, by the direction of their owners, in some handicraft trade, as that of smiths, carpenters, masons, &c., which they practised for the entire benefit of their masters.

The following is a picture of the cruelty exercised during the feudal period, in 1137, from the Saxon chronicles.

"Every powerful man made his castles and held them against the king, and they filled the land full of castles. They cruelly oppressed the wretched men of the land with castle works. When the castles were made they filled them with devils and evil men. Then took they these men that they imagined had any property, both by night and by day, peasant men and women, and put them in prison for their gold and silver, and tortured them with unutterable torture, for never were martyrs so tortured as they were. They hanged them up by the feet and smoked them with foul

smoke ; they hanged them by the thumbs or by the head, and hung fires on their feet ; they put knotted strings about their heads and writhed them so that it went to the brain, &c. And this lasted the nineteen winters that Stephen was king."

Feudal oppressions were great and injustice common, true judgment being difficult to obtain, and bribery most shamefully practised by bailiffs, and winked at even by the head barons. The daughter of a tenant could not marry unless the lord gave consent and paid a certain fine, and had in many instances to submit to an abominable practice.

This system of galling serfdom, however, was doomed, and villeinage became less and less common. Many things transpired to cause its extinction. If a villein escaped from his lord's clutches, a quiet residence of a year and a day upon the king's demesne lands would enfranchise a villein who had fled from his master. Again, during the reign of King Henry VI., in consequence of the confusion occasioned by the two contending houses of York and Lancaster. The whole kingdom was divided, and every lord was obliged for his own security, to take part with one side or the other, and when once engaged was bound to support his party with his whole force. Villeins were therefore emancipated in prodigious numbers in order that they might act as soldiers, and so became virtually free-men.

The Church, viewing all men equal, allowed serfs to become priests and monks, and so they were taken from their lord's power. The manumission of slaves was also constantly urged by the sacerdotal order.

The following quaint and lively picture of the feudal times, in its later stage, from a MS. in the Ashmolean Museum, may prove interesting :—" Upon any occasion of bustling in those days a great lord sounded his trumpet (all lords kept trumpeters, even down to King James) and summoned those that held under him ; those again sounded their trumpets, and so downwards to the copyholders and villeins. The

Court of Wards was a great bridle in those days. No younger brothers, by the custom and constitution of the realme, were to betake themselves to trade, but were churchmen, or retayners, and servants to great men, rid good horses (now and then took a purse), and their blood, that was bred at the good tables of their masters, was upon every occasion freely lett out in their quarrels. It was then too common amongst their masters to have feuds with one another, and their servants at market, or where they met, in that slashing age, did commonly bang one another's bucklers. Then an esquier, when he rode to town, was attended by eight or ten men, in bleu-coats with badges. The lords (then lords indeed as well as title) lived in their countries like petty kings (roytelets), and had 'jura regalia' belonging to their seignories ; had their castles and burroughs, and sent burgesses to the Lower House ; had gallows within their liberties, where they could try, condemn, hang and drawe. Never went to London but in parliament time, or once a year to do their duty and homage to the king. The lords of the manor kept good houses in their countries, did eat in their great Gothic halls at the high table or oreile, the folke at the side tables. Every baron or gentleman of estate kept great horses for a man-at-arms ; lords had their armouries, to furnish some hundreds of men. Destroying of justice manours began in Henry VII., but now is common, whereby the meane persons live lawless, with nobody to govern them, fearing nobody, having on nobody dependance. Thus, and by the selling of the Church lands, is the balance of the government quite altered, and putt into the hands of the common people. No ale-house, nor yet innes, then, except upon great roads ; when they had a mind to drink, they went to the friars ; and when they travelled, they had entertainment in the religious houses for three days if occasion so long required. The meeting of the gentry was not then in tippling houses, but in the fields and forests, with their hawks or houndes, with their bugle-hornes in silk baudrics, &c."

We will conclude this portion of our subject by saying that the Normans endeavoured to stamp out the very nationality of the Saxons. They despised their language as coarse and vulgar, and introduced their own Norman-French. They elevated their own people to the highest offices, ecclesiastical, military, and civil. They framed laws intended to crush the very life-blood out of their conquered subjects. But all this proved of little avail; the Saxons had taken deep and congenial root in the English soil: for the foundation of our constitution and speech we owe to them mainly, and so by slow degrees the two races amalgamated, and the mixture of the Norman rule and order, with the Saxon perseverance, industry, and love of liberty, produced one of the finest and most powerful people the world had hitherto seen.

### THE LACIES.

A brief sketch of some of the prominent members of this distinguished family may prove acceptable. It is to be regretted that we can glean so little concerning the lives of men who must have greatly influenced the district over which they held almost absolute sway. We will, however, concern ourselves chiefly with those who were connected with Rothwell more directly.

*Ilbert De Lacy* the head of this great house, from which this Norman family derived its name, came from Laisey, on the road from Vere to Auvray. This Ilbert is said to have been lord of Bois l'Eveque, near Dainetal, in Normandy. He was created Baron of Pontefract, some say in 1070, others 1072. He made Pontefract his head quarters and the chief seat of his government. He formed the Seignory or Honor of Pontefract, a Court still existing. In order to secure his position he commenced to build that great stronghold the Castle, which took nearly twelve years in building.

The Lacies, in their capacity of feudal or demesne lords

of this immense territory, must have been almost as powerful as kings. Besides this castle at Pontefract, they had smaller castles at Leeds, Bradford, and other places, also fortified manors at various points, so that they hunted and rode hither and thither with their attendants, and would never have to travel far without coming across some suitable halting place. The extent of their possessions was such that the lord could ride three days on horseback continuous and see nothing but his own lands.

Ilbert would undoubtedly pass a very eventful and stirring life. The large possessions he had obtained he would wish to keep and hold, and to do so amongst an unfriendly and subdued people, smarting under the sense of wrong, he would have to build fortresses to terrify and overawe them.

His chief attention would be directed to the building of that great and formidable Castle at Pontefract for his own special use and safety. This would be a slow and tedious process, and occupied most of his remaining days. He founded\* St. Clement's Chapel, a collegiate chapel within the Castle. He amply endowed it with two parts of the tithes of his demesne lands, of which Rothwell formed a part; also the whole tithe of apples in Rodewell. Respecting this tithe on certain lands in the parish of Rothwell, and called St. Clement's tithe, a suit was instituted for the recovery of the same by Ralph Henry Brandling, and amicably settled by the late vicar, Rev. J. Bell, in 1829.

I cannot forbear quoting the following, which may account for the origin of so many churches and monasteries about this period. "A popular panic, the origin of which it is difficult to discover, spread itself over Europe towards the conclusion of the tenth century. It was believed that the world would be destroyed at the termination of the year 1000. That epoch was awaited with an anxiety that may be

\* To found a building does not always imply that it was built by the person in his lifetime, but it may mean that he wished it to be done, and left sufficient for its support to his successor.

easily conceived; but it passed without any extraordinary event. A profound feeling of piety took possession of all hearts. Every one owed to heaven a token of acknowledgment for having rescued him from a terrible danger. The kings and the nobility, who had partaken of the general alarm, were the first to prove their gratitude, by building churches, which were consecrated to God and rich monasteries destined for his servants. It was a contest of magnificence and generosity. In a short time Europe was covered with a great portion of those Gothic abbeys and churches which are still the adornments of the most remarkable and picturesque scenes."

Ilbert died in 1087, the same year as his royal master, William the Conqueror. He left two sons, Robert and Hugh, the former of whom succeeded him. *Robert* was called Pontefract, from the place of his birth. We give him credit for completing the above St. Clement's Chapel. In 1090 he founded the priory of St. John the Evangelist, at Pontefract; he was also the founder of the Augustan monastery or priory of St. Oswald (a canonized ancient Christian king), 1120, and he richly endowed it afterwards, Rothwell Church being amongst others appropriated to it.

Robert, believing that Robert Duke of Normandy had a prior right to the throne of England, and that Henry I. unlawfully seized the crown on the death of Rufus, took a leading part against the king. An understanding was come to by the royal brothers, but Robert De Lacy was banished by the king, and forfeited his castle and lands. These were bestowed on Henry Traverse, who was murdered within a few days, probably by one of the Lacy feudatories. Hugh De la Val became the next possessor. He granted and confirmed several charters during the few years he was in possession; also Rothwell Church, along with five other Yorkshire churches, he gave to Nostell Priory, and this was confirmed by Robert, who, returning from his banishment, was reinstated into power. He died about 1136.

Ilbert, or Gilbert, was the next heir. He espoused the cause of Stephen. He died without children, and was succeeded by *Henry De Lacy*, the first of that name, who received a confirmation of all the estates from Henry II. This Henry De Lacy founded Kirkstall Abbey in 1152, and was buried there in 1187.

He was succeeded by his son, Robert De Lacy, who was one of the attendant barons at the coronation of Richard I., 15th August, 1189, and was the last descendant of the old line of the Lacies. He died on the 18th February, 1192. Dying childless, the estates descended to his maternal half-sister, Alreda Lisours. Her heir apparent by her first husband was her grandson, Roger Fitz Eustace. He assumed the name of Lacy. He granted to the burgesses of Pontefract their first charter. He was the first sheriff of Yorkshire, during the reign of King John, 1208-11. Leaving an only son, John. He added lustre to the name of Lacy by marrying, as his second wife, Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of the Earl of Lincoln.\* John De Lacy obtained a privilege for all merchants coming by water to Pontefract to be toll free, knowing that undue restrictions on trade and commerce were hurtful to a commercial people. He died 20th July, 1240, leaving two daughters and an only son, *Edmund*. We ought to have stated before that this John De Lacy was, with several other knights, ordered to be at Berwick-on-Tweed on Mid-Lent Sunday, to conduct the King of Scots to York, where it was arranged that he should hold an interview with Henry III., 1229. Previously he had been selected as one of the barons who obtained the Magna Charta from King John.

To this Edmund De Lacy the Rothwell people applied to get him to induce the king to grant them the privileges of a market town, in which he succeeded, on the terms as follows:—"35th Henry III. (1250). The King hath granted

\* And so thus succeeded to the Earldom of Lincoln which continued in the family up to Henry de Lacy.

for the ease and profit of the lieges and tenants of our town of Rothwell, within the Honor of Pontefract, at their request, a certain market within the town aforesaid, upon the Wednesday, and two fairs there, to wit, one of them on the eve and day of St. Thomas the Martyr,\* July 7, and the other on the eve and day of St. Matthew the Evangelist, September 21st."

That two fairs in the year should be granted to Rothwell at such an early date is indicative of its commercial importance; indeed, we know that before its fairs were granted it was little if anything less important than Leeds. In the 30th Henry III. a tallage was assessed, to which Pontefract paid  $103\frac{1}{2}$  marks; the burgh of Leeds  $3\frac{1}{2}$  marks; Rothwell  $4\frac{1}{2}$  marks, &c.† (13s. 4d. was the value then of a mark).

"Tallage was of two sorts: one paid to the king, the other to a subordinate lord. The tallage rendered to the king was raised upon the demesnes, escheats, and wardships, and upon the burghs and towns of the realm."

"In 1251 (Henry III.) Edmund De Lacy obtained a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands of Pontefract, Rowel (Rothwell), Windlesford (Woodlesford), Oltone, Carlton, Lofthouse, &c.

Edmund died in his early manhood, 5th June, 1258, while his son Henry was a minor, only eight and a-half years old, and this Edmund dying away from home, at Gascony, there was a *post mortem* inquiry concerning all the manors, &c., which he had held. The estates, or rather the bulk of them, under such circumstances were taken possession of by the crown. Henry himself, and his intended bride (which his father in 1257 had purchased for him for 10 marks of gold), Margaret, daughter of William Longespie Earl of Salisbury,

\* In the reign of Henry III. Becket's bones were enshrined in gold, and pilgrims from all parts paid their devotions at his tomb, which was destroyed in the reign of Henry VIII.

† "Maddox's History of the Exchequer."

were held in wardship of the king.\* It was therefore during his boyhood, and his close connection with royalty, that he contracted a firm friendship with the Prince Edward who afterwards became king as Edward I. When that great monarch ascended the throne, this Henry, first Earl of Lincoln, became one of his most confidential and illustrious generals. He had offices of important trust given into his hands, such as the subjugation of the Welsh, political negotiations, and royal marriage contracts to perform, which he faithfully and efficiently fulfilled.

His widowed mother, the Countess Alice, soon after the death of her husband, received in dowry, amongst other manors, that of Rothwell, near Leeds, and she (if not also her son), in 1260, resided in the castlet built by their ancestors. No doubt Rothwell was chosen by her as being a quiet, sylvan, and pleasant retreat. It is said she loved Rothwell with an abiding love. Here she spent forty years of her lone widowhood, and died in 1302. We cannot for a moment imagine that she would be neglected by her noble son, but that many times Rothwell would be honoured by his visits and those of his retinue. One proof of her love (and the highest she could then give) was shown in her great reverence for the Church. There she founded an altar or chantry, where masses could be said for her soul. She left lands at Rothwell and Leeds for the support of two chantry priests. This was the chantry of the Virgin, in the south part of the parish church, which was mentioned a few years after, in 1307, in Archbishop Melton's Register. King Edward III. gave his license for an appropriation thereto of  $92\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, in Rothwell Haigh, Carlton, Hunslet, Woodhouse, &c. It continued to exist until 1st

\* "Of youths of high birth and of damsels who are, and who ought to be, in the wardship of his lordship the king, whether the same have been married or are marriageable; and if they have been married, to whom and by whom, and what is the value of their lands."—*Articles of Wardship, Liber Albus of the City of London.*

Edward VI. (1547), when all such institutions were dissolved by Act of Parliament. Its last priest was John Sharp, whose clear income was £4 7s. 2d. per annum.

In the person of this celebrated Henry De Lacy, whose sons were by accident killed in their childhood, terminates (dying 5th February, 1310) the ancient and honoured line of the Lacies, men who in their day and generation took a prominent, and generally a wise part, in their country's affairs. The story of their family disappointments and bereavements is upon the whole a sad one, but it is not uncommon.

After about 230 years' continuance, the name of Lacy became really extinct as regards the Honor of Pontefract.

Henry De Lacy, on the failure of male issue, bequeathed his possessions to his daughter Alice, who married the unfortunate Thomas Duke of Lancaster, and uncle of Edward II.

But to return to the History of Rothwell. On Tuesday June 12th, 1212, King John stayed at Rothwell, as well as on the 8th and 9th of September in the same year. These visits may thus be accounted for. During the minority of John De Lacy the king was frequently at Pontefract Castle.\* He was also wont to travel about the country with the judges of assize, and was accompanied by huntsmen and all the retinue required for the chase. From the number of injunctions bearing upon the chase, before setting out on his journey to Yorkshire, to the seneschals of castles, and the custodians of the many chases throughout the country, we may infer that he was as keen a sportsman as his great ancestor, Duke William.

\* In December (14 John), 1212, the Honor was in the king's hands, and he seems to have made free use with its revenues, for in 1213 he directed 300 marks from its issues to be spent on the works at Corfe Castle (*Builder*, 1873). John De Lacy had seisin 20th September, 1213, and paid the king 7000 marks for livery of the Honor, less the castles of Pontefract and Durrington, which the king kept.

While the lands of De Lacy were in the king's hands the Castlet of Rothwell was a hunting seat, in which John several times lodged. Rothwell Haigh\* was a spacious park, strictly preserved, and well suited to the mind of the Plantagenet sportsmen. Hence, perhaps, the numerous visits of the king to his "Hospitium de Rowell" when seeking relaxation from the tiresome duties which he had imposed upon himself. This fact shows that Rothwell at this early period was no mean place, had resources of its own, and could furnish sport, entertainment, and suitable lodgment even for a king and his numerous attendants.

Disputes and quarrels about boundaries are sure to arise, and so we find that, in 1202, Adam De Beeston had a dispute with William Grammary respecting the boundary between the manors of Middleton and Beeston. William Grammary, Lord of Middleton, gives to the king 100 marks and a palfrey for having an inquisition concerning the appeal which Adam De Beeston made against him. The matter in dispute was the ownership of the wood between Beeston and Middleton. Grammary one day caught a

\* Ancient dog kennels were formerly situated on Rothwell Haigh; a survey of 1825 proves the name. They were in a field now connected with the farm occupied by Mr. Thomas Craven, which farm has been in the hands of the Cravens for generations back. The stones of the kennels were carted away about fifty years ago. Old lairs were then pulled down, and several of the stones were used in the construction of the New Lairs, and are now visible. Some of them are pierced with trefoils for the purpose of ventilation; others act as gable end coping stones. All of them are marked with a running leaf-like pattern. Part of a sun-dial is also noticeable in a shed near. The space occupied by the kennels is shown by the trace of a hedge which afterwards enclosed some gardens, formerly in possession of Mr. Isaac Tetley, an ancestor of the great brewers. Afterwards the hedge was grubbed up by Mr. Craven, and a grass field enlarged thereby. Near it is an ancient-looking well (seldom dry) of a peculiarly rounded shape. The position of the dog kennels was about half-a-mile from the Manor Castle, and near the old "Bridle-sty" Road from Woodlesford to Rothwell Haigh. Not far off is land called "Haigh Pale" Close, pointing no doubt to an enclosed park.

Beeston forester and put him into the stocks. Impatient of law's delay, they determined to settle their differences by an appeal to arms. A duel was fought between them in 1209, the issue of which is not known, but the wood was ceded to Adam De Beeston.

In 1268 a quarrel arose between De Lacy and John De Warren Earl of Surrey, and Lord of the Manor of Wakefield. The feud rose so high that both nobles called out their retainers and prepared for battle, but fear intervened to prevent the actual conflict. The king hearing of their dispute sent his justiciaries to terminate the rupture. They impanelled a jury to investigate the truth of the matter. The verdict was in favour of De Lacy.

In 1297 action was taken against the Prior of Nostell by William De Beeston for allowing his cattle to roam from his manor of Rowell to Beeston's messuage at Morley. The suit terminated in favour of the Prior, who was ordered to recover his seisin.

Another king (Edward II.) visits Rothwell. His progress towards the north is occasioned by serious and critical events. The Scots overrun Yorkshire and commit fearful ravages. That warlike prince, Edward I., was able to overcome them, and keep them within bounds, and even to invade their country and make their chiefs do homage to him, but his imbecile son Edward II. possessed few of his father's good qualities. The Scots were bent upon seeking revenge, which they fearfully exacted at the disgraceful Battle of Bannockburn.\* On the 10th of August, 1314, Edward issued writs from York to Richard De Tong and Thomas De Heaton for the Wapentakes of Morley and Skyrack, and to other gentlemen for their wapentakes, to raise all men between fifteen and sixty who were capable of bearing arms to repel the invading Scots, who were in the meantime burning and harrying the fairest portions of Yorkshire, and destroying the harvest as on former occasions.

\* 24th June, 1314.

On the 20th September, 1316, William De Beeston and others were ordered to raise the men of the liberty and domain of Thomas De Lancaster, within the wapentake of Osgodcross, Stayncross, Barkston, Skyrack, Agbrigg, and Morley, within the soke of Snaith and Marshland.

It is during one of their incursions that Rothwell, Batley, and Morley were occupied by the Scottish army for fifteen days. The inhabitants in fear buried their treasures, some of which were found in Morley in the early part of last century. Wheat then sold at twenty shillings per quarter.

In 1319 the invaders made another equally terrible descent. On the 8th June, 1319, writs were issued for a general levy of men North of the Trent. John De Thornill, William De Beeston, Warren De Scargill, and Nicholas De Stapleton, and others, were ordered to raise the men of the West Riding. For the same army Lancaster was summoned to raise upon his lands and fiefs two thousand footmen, of whom one thousand shall have aketon,\* basinet,† and gloves of iron; the other thousand, being archers, shall be completely armed according to their duties. Yet the district around Leeds was occupied and despoiled by them.

The king resided at Pontefract and in the neighbourhood for some time after Earl Thomas of Lancaster's untimely death.‡ The story about this I presume is generally known. From the 2nd to the 6th of April, 1319, he stayed at Altofts, and returned to Pontefract, whence the public acts of the realm were issued from the 12th to the 14th. From the 18th of April to the beginning of May he was at Rothwell, where, after visiting York, he returned on the 3rd of June, and stayed until the 8th. There are many writs given, if not

\* Aketon, or haqueton, a padded or quilted tunic.

† Basinet, a light, close-fitting head-piece or helm, somewhat globular in form, but raised a little above the head, and terminating above in a point.

‡ Beheaded at Pontefract 22nd March, 1322.

tested at Rothwell ; and one of them shows that the town was requested to send three men to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to be there on the eve of St. James the Apostle, the 24th July, to perform service, at the expense of the town, for forty days. The king was again at Rothwell on the 15th of May, 1323, where he stayed until the 21st, departing thence to Bishop-Thorpe.

All this goes to prove that the estates were in possession of the crown, the unfortunate Lancaster having forfeited them by his opposition to the king.

On the 20th of May, 1363, Symon Symeon, of Pontefract, gave for the support of a chantry (in Thomas of Lancaster's Memorial Chapel) all the messuages, tenements, lands, and rents which he had in the town of Rothwell, viz., one messuage and twenty-four acres of land ; and in Oulton, one messuage and twenty acres of land. These he presented in full almoinage.\* In augmentation thereunto, John Duke of Lancaster gave five messuages and sixteen oxgangs of land in Middleton, near Rothwell. These grants were confirmed by the Chapter of York, May 25th, 1373.

The will of Simon Symeon shows that coal mining was practised in this neighbourhood as early as the fourteenth century. We give a copy of this part. "xxi April, M.CCCCI., Willielmus De North-folk De Pontefracte. Lego ad sustentacionem luminis Gildæ B. Thomasæ Lancastri, xij<sup>d</sup>. Lego ad emendacionem viæ infra moram de Preston versus puteos carbonum ij<sup>s</sup>. Lego ad construendam unam crucem lapidem pondendam ubi crux ligneus stat versus montem Beati Thomæ, juxtra viam ducentem versus Bon-gate x<sup>s</sup>.—(Prob. IV. Jul.) Test. Ebor., Vol. I., p. 281."

After Thomas of Lancaster's death the Pontefract estates reverted to the crown in the person of Edward III., who upon his marriage gave part of them to his queen, Philippa.

\* That is, entirely and for ever set apart for the support of a priest to perform the office.

These passed into the hands of Henry Earl of Lancaster, who died of the plague in 1360.

John of Gaunt Earl of Richmond, and son of Edward III., marrying Blanche, the second daughter of the above earl, by right of his wife, succeeded to the title and possessions as Duke of Lancaster, 1361.

These estates included the castle and town of Pontefract, the manors of Bradford, Almanbury, Altofts, Warnefield, *Rothwell*, Ledes, Roundhay, Scoles, Berewyk, Kypax, Allerton, Knotyngley with its mill, Beghall, Ramsale, Ouston, Elmsale, Akworth, and Tanshelf, with its members and other appurtenances, and the bailiwicks of Osgodcross, Agbrigge and Stayncross, and the bailiwicks of the Honor of Pontefract, and an annual rent called "Castle-ferm,"\* with many other places in Yorkshire, Northumberland, Lancashire, Leicester, Warwick, and Chester.

This represents an enormous wealth of property and land, and consequently power, to be in the hands of one man.

The possession of the Honor of Pontefract by Edward III., and his renowned son John of Gaunt, is marked by an era in English history in which Yorkshiremen of this part were very prominent. This may be due to their faithful adherence to the House of Lancaster throughout its many vicissitudes.

In the early days of the marriage of Queen Philippa she chose her maidens from some of the best Yorkshire families. Margaret de *Dyneley* received a pension of ten pounds per annum for the good service she had rendered to the queen ; Henry de *Wakefield* was the keeper of the king's wardrobe ; Thomas de *Carleton* was embroiderer ; John de *Hatfield* treasurer of the navy ; William de *Rothwell* was keeper of the king's chamber in the Tower of London ; Richard *Scargill* and others were valets.

In the military annals of the age the soldiers of York-

\* Fixed tolls, dues, or rents.

shire were equally distinguished. Amongst them Adam and Robert de *Swillington* of *Swillington*; William Lord Latimer, who held parts of Hunslet; John Hunt of *Carlton*, &c.

Pontefract Castle\* was John of Gaunt's stronghold in the north to which he often resorted, and the castlets in its neighbourhood were frequently his dwelling places for short periods.

There are several traditions concerning this famous John of Gaunt's exploits at Rothwell, and a few particulars of his life are here given from a note appended to Froissart's Chronicles.

"John Duke of Lancaster, better known by the title of John of Gaunt or Ghent (where he was born, in Flanders), was the fourth son of Edward III. Trained to arms under his warlike father, he early approved himself in this respect worthy of his descent. By his first marriage he obtained Blanche to wife, daughter and heiress of the Lancaster estates; she dying, he married Constantina, daughter and heiress to the crown of Castile, and he laid claim to that crown. In the latter part of his father's reign, when the king became weak, by the great wealth and influence which the duke could bring to bear, he contrived to manage affairs nearly all his own way. He, however, was not a favourite either with the people or the prelates. He defied them and supported Wickcliffe. In his military enterprises he was often unsuccessful. In 1384, while employed in France, he was ordered to be arrested, being suspected of designs on the crown; but he managed to elude his pursuers, and escape to his castle at Pontefract. When brought before the king Richard II., his nephew, accused of the purpose, he cunningly deceived him, and was pardoned. He again became a widower, and married Catherine Swynford,

\* John of Gaunt was fond of this castle. He restored the works, and some of the half-covered basements in the main ward appear to be of his time.

with whom he had previously cohabited, and who had borne him illegitimate offspring; these, however, were declared afterwards legitimate by the king and created noble."

John of Gaunt was the father of Henry of Lancaster, who eventually became King of England under the style of Henry IV. The former died February 3rd, 1399, aged 59 years. He was famed for his stature, strength, and prowess.

A portrait of him wearing his crown as King of Castile and Leon, with a sceptre in his hand, is on the window of the Library of All Souls' College, Oxford, and appears in an engraving as frontispiece to "Godwin's Life of Chaucer."

It is reported that on one of his hunting expeditions in this quarter, he killed the last wild boar frequenting these parts; so the legend runs. And the probability of the affair is strengthened by the fact, that the spot where it is said to have taken place, is called "Stye Bank" to this day; and, being a wild common even down to about eighty-nine years ago, was a very likely nook for such animals to exist in. No doubt the event would cause at the time great consternation in the neighbourhood, for it would be a terror to the inhabitants, and they would look upon this said John of Gaunt as a kind of deliverer from its annoyance.\*

We subjoin the following, bearing upon the Duchy of

\* The hunting and slaying of the wild boar was considered in those days as one of the most daring and courageous acts of the huntsman, simply because the animal was formidable and dangerous, and being armed with sharp and enormous tusks, which, when hunted and at bay, it knew well how to use in its own defence. It was no uncommon thing for it by one sharp stroke to rip up the bowels of the unfortunate dog which came within its grasp. The huntsman carried a spear with him, and generally rode on horseback; for the wild boar being lanky and strong (different to the over-fed animals of this day), was swift of foot. Assisted by eager hounds called "boar dogs," the spearmen at last got the fierce animal encompassed, pierced the weapon into his side, and made an end of him. Certain rejoicing ensued. His flesh was considered a delicacy, and served up with a degree of pomp.

Lancaster, and indicating its high dignity and splendour:—“The Court of the Duchy owes its origin to Henry IV., who, deposing Richard II., usurped the crown; and, possessing the duchy in right of his mother, was seized thereof as Duke as well as King. But imagining his right to the duchy better than that to the crown, which, being effected, he erected this court (1376) for its use, wherein all matters of law and equity belonging to the duchy or county palatine of Lancaster are heard and decided by the Chancellor thereof.”

The incident we are about to relate illustrates the high office connected therewith. At the coronation of King Henry IV., 13th October, 1399, the Lord Henry the King’s eldest son, whom the king in right of his Duchy of Lancaster had appointed to that office, claimed to bear before the king the principal sword called “curtana,” and had his suit granted. (Blount.)

Singularly we meet with nothing taking place at Rothwell during the fifteenth century. On reference to our national history we find that the fearfully destructive “Wars of the Roses”\* raged and lasted for about thirty years. The rival factions of York and Lancaster contended for the crown of England. On December 30th, 1460, the great Battle of Wakefield was fought, the Lancasterians were victorious. The Battle of Towton, near Tadcaster, was fought on Palm Sunday, March 29th, 1461, and the slaughter was something horrible, about 38,000 being slain, resulting in favour of the

\* Camden states “that the Lancasterians derived the badge of the red rose from their ancestor Edmund, first Earl of Lancaster. On whose person, says Sanford, “was originally founded the great contention betwixt the two royal houses of Lancaster and York.” Again, Camden in his “Remains” asserts “that Edmund Crouch-backe, second son of Henry III. used a red rose wherewith his tomb at Westminster is adorned.” Also that John of Gaunt, fifth Duke of Lancaster, took a red rose to his device, as it were by right of his first wife, the heiress of Lancaster, grandchild to the above-named Edmund Crouch-backe, and that Edmund of Langley, his younger brother, adopted as his emblem the “white rose.” (Halstead’s Richard III.)

Yorkists. Even to this day masses of human bones are found in the churchyard at Saxton.

We may naturally suppose that Rothwell would not escape its direful effects; for, being of the territory of the House of Lancaster, the Lancasterian party, with Henry VI. at their head and a scion of that line, would summon all the available forces in connection with the Honor of Pontefract and its Wapentakes, and all men and youths capable of warlike service would be pressed into its ranks. And we judge, therefore, that in these uneasy times Rothwell would be nearly drained of its best men, and therefore too much engaged with fighting to attend to local duties, or to repair and rebuild erections possibly thrown down by their antagonists. For some indication in this direction the reader is referred to the account of the Manor House.

In the “Subsidy Roll” of the Wapentake of Agbrigg and Morley (communicated by J. J. Cartwright, M.A.), it appears that by a statute passed 14 and 15 Henry VIII. (1522), a yearly subsidy was granted to the king, to be continued for four years. The occasion of it was to enable Henry to punish the French king, Louis XII., for these unpardonable offences:—First, his breach of oath and covenant with the Emperor of Spain, Charles V., Henry’s dear friend; Second, the French king having married the Princess Mary, held from her the dowry, as Queen Dowager of France, due to her, and this princess was Henry VIII.’s sister; and, lastly, he had encouraged the Scots in their attacks upon England. So the English king felt himself in honour bound to support his friend and to oppose such proceedings.

In order to obtain the money to carry on the war, Henry applied to Parliament to grant the supplies. After discussing the matter several days, and hinting at several grants lately conceded to the king, they at last reluctantly consented to his peremptory demand. It was stipulated “that every estate of twenty pounds annual income and upwards should pay two shillings in the pound, and that all from twenty

pounds downwards to forty shillings should contribute one shilling in the pound; and that in estates under forty shillings, every head above sixteen years of age should pay four-pence in two years." One contemporary writer says, "I have heard no man in my life that can remember that there was ever given to any one of the king's ancestors half so much at one grant; nor do I think there was ever such a precedent seen before this time."

We give the names of those taxed, and the amounts paid in the Rothwell parish:—William Croft, 20s., Richard Grave, 40s., Agnes Lucas, 20s., Robert Lucas, 20s., Edmund Beckwyth, 20s., Rauff Grave, 20s., Henry Hunt for ten marsh lands, 13s. 4d., John Forman, 12d., Robert Mokson, 16d., Gilbert Moer, 16d., Anntony Moer, 15d., Gilbert Dobson, 5s., John Clayburgh, 12d., Christopher Calverley, 12d., John Gamyell for 2s., Richard Rawson, 12d., Rauff Nores, 12d., Thomas Marsh, 12d., William Bussey, 12d., John Manixer, 12d., Robert Croft, 12d., Alice Banke, 12d., John Johnson, 12d., William Westerman, 12d., John Hall, 12d., Richard Appilyerd, 12d., Thomas Gibson, 12d. It will be observed, in the above list, that several names spelt in a more modern fashion still exist about here, while others have died out. It is to be regretted that the special place of residence is not given; some, however, might be safely guessed. The total amount collected out of the district was £8 19s. 3d., according to the value put upon money then, and for an indication of wealth favourably compares with other divisions of the country.

The establishment of the Reformation, with its new forms of religion, was hateful to some of the powerful Roman Catholic families in England. Various unsuccessful rebellions were organised with a view of opposing such alterations. One, called the "Pilgrimage of Grace," arose in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, in 1536. William Legh, of Middleton, was involved in it, and suffered death as a traitor, along with others, in 1541. He was seized of lands

in Lofthouse, Carleton, Rothwell, &c. In 1569 another insurrection, known as the "Rising in the North," took place, headed by the disaffected Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland. Its avowed object was to favour the Duke of Norfolk's proposed marriage with the imprisoned Mary Stuart, and to re-establish the Romanist religion. This miserably failed and the affair collapsed. Thomas Leyhe, of Middleton, Esq., a grandson of the aforesaid William Legh, was suspected of being in favour of the Duke of Northumberland, on account of some carelessly-worded expressions which he uttered, and which were misconstrued; he was accordingly examined before Sir Thomas Gargrave, in August 1570, at his residence, Nostell Priory. This Sir Thomas Gargrave was ex-President of the Northern Council and Governor of Pontefract Castle. He gives an account of the examination in a letter to Sir William Cecil, principal Secretary of State, wishing him to put a lenient construction upon the young man's words, and to excuse him. Subjoined are extracts:—

"I have also sent you the examynation of Thomas Leyhe for suche words as he shold speke in Cheshyre. Surely Sir, he ys a yonge man moche gyffyn to huntyng, and of myn awne knowlege I do knowe that in the heate of the troble, when Christopher Danbey and others of the rebells wyth 200 horsemen came to Ledes within lesse then ij myles of his howse, he kepte hym frome them and came to me to Pontfret castell, to serve the Quene's Majestie, and because he dyd dwell ny Ledes, and on the southe syde of the water of ayer (Aire) that comyth by Ledes I ioinyd hym in commyssyon with divers others to fortefyne and defende that bryge lest the rebells shold ther passe over the water southeward, where he servyd well and also he dyd send and sett furth to the Lord leuetenant here bothe horsemen and fotemen to serve the Quene's majestie. So that in all that tyme of Rebellyon so farre as I could here he servyd the Quene's Majestie accordyng to his deuty. He hayd a yonger brother that servyd therle of Northumberland, whoo hayth submyttd hym selfe and payd his fyne, the sayd Thomas Legh hayth ben syckle moche of this somer. I beseche your Honor yf this case may bere yt to be his good master for this tyme."

The defendant's statement:—"I wolde be sorye for it wolde greve me to drawe my sworde againste the said Erle that had so muche bene his frend.' And yet he saith he then said he wold adventure hymself as furr

During the sixteenth century Rothwell was twice visited by the Plague.\* First in 1557, when burials increased from twenty to seventy-six, and next, in 1558, when they increased from thirty-four to one hundred and twenty-seven. Erasmus, a cotemporary and a foreigner, who visited England at this period, ascribes the frequent plagues in England to the nastiness and dirt and slovenly habits among the people. "The floor," says he, "are commonly of clay, strewed with rushes, under which, lie unmolested, an ancient collection of beer, grease, fragments of meat and fish bones, and everything that is nasty."

In 1587 Stephen Westerman, plaintiff, and Robert Burton, defendant, tried a suit in Chancery, the object of which was to redeem a mortgage, &c., upon a messuage and land in Rothwell, which William Westerman, deceased, the plaintiff's father, held of the Queen's manor † of Rothwell, and mort-

in the service of the Quene's matie as any man will do; examyned why he said he wolde not drawe his sworde against the said Erle, and he saith he never said nor mentt so, but that he wolde be sorie to do it for the good will before he ought hym. And althoughe he wolde be sorie to drawe his sworde agaynst the Erle's person, yet if he came agaynst the quene and Realme, he saithe he wolde be as readie to resistre hym as any man wolde, and this above confessed is all (he saith) that he can saye or remember towchinge the premisses.

"To the third Interrogatorye he saith that he herd not of any Musters in Yorkshire untill the daye or ij before his comyng awaye homewards, and then one came to hym frome his owne house in Yorkshire, and said he muste on the Mundaye folowinge be at a Muster at *Rothwell Haigh* in Yorkshire before Sir Thomas Gargrave, and have a horseman furnished there.

"To the fourth he saithe that upon a Sondaye he was with his cosyn Mr. Leige aforesaid at . . . at a bearebaytinge at after none."—*Domestic Annals. Addenda, Eliz.*, vol. xix.

\* There is a piece of land at Robin Hood, at the back of Mr. Ridyard's, the joiner, described in a deed of property dated 1852, commonly known as "Plague Close." The popular belief is that plague-stricken bodies were brought here to be buried from Leeds and elsewhere, the part being uninhabited and a wild common.

† Queen Elizabeth.

gaged to George Firth, who is charged with usury. The result of the suit is not given. (Proceedings in Chancery.)

1528-9, Jan. 16.—License to the curate of Rothwell to marry George Norman, par. All Saints, Pavement, York, and Alice Lee, par. Rothwell. Banns once.—(*Testamenta Eboracensia, Marriage Licenses, Surtees Society.*)

We pass over a long stretch of time, arriving at the period when another civil war is about to be commenced, but on a far different footing, and involving tremendous issues. Yorkshire was very reluctant to take part in the civil war, and we learn that both sides (the Royalist and the Parliamentary) were unanimous in their desire to prevent bloodshed, and they resolved to make one more effort to preserve their people from the horrors of a civil conflict. "With the consent of the Earl of Cumberland on the one side, and of Lord Fairfax on the other, a treaty of neutrality was set on foot, and on September 29th, 1642, fourteen articles or propositions were agreed upon and signed at Rothwell, near Leeds, by Henry Bellayse,<sup>1</sup> William Savill,<sup>2</sup> Edward Osborne,<sup>3</sup> John Ramsden,<sup>4</sup> Ingram Hopton,<sup>5</sup> Francis

This brief account of the gentlemen who signed the Treaty will no doubt add to the interest of the transaction.

1. Sir Henry Bellayse was born at Coxwold. He was the son of Lord Fauconberg and grandson of Sir Henry Bellayse, and cousin of Sir F. Fairfax, member for Yorkshire. He was representative of Thirsk along with William Frankland, Esq., but became disqualified for sitting October 6th, 1642, three weeks before the meeting at Rothwell. He died 20th May, 1647. This happening before the death of his father he did not succeed to the title. Strange to say a son of his married, as a second wife, Mary, daughter of Oliver Cromwell, November 18th, 1657.

2. Sir William Savill, of Thornhill, a Royalist, married Ann, daughter of Lord Coventry, Keeper of the Privy Seal. She accompanied her husband through the perils of the Civil War, and for her attachment to the royal cause was called by the "Roundheads" the "She Cavalier." In a song printed in *Mercurius Pragmaticus*, July 18th, 1648, she is so named, and in a New Litany, dated 1646, is the following:—

"From mouldy bread and musty beer,  
From a holiday's fast and a Friday's cheer,  
From a brotherhood and a 'She Cavalier,'  
'Libero nos Domine.'"

Nevill,<sup>6</sup> on the king's part; and Thomas Fairfax,<sup>7</sup> Thomas Mauleverer,<sup>8</sup> William Lister,<sup>9</sup> William White,<sup>10</sup> John Farrar,<sup>11</sup> and John Stockdale,<sup>12</sup> on the other part.

"It was agreed that neither the ordinance of militia nor the commissions of array should be meddled with, and that both sides should observe strict neutrality in the approaching contest." A tract was printed at this critical time, entitled, "Reasons why Sir John Hotham,\* trusted by the Parliament, cannot in honour agree to the Treaty of Pacification," &c., in which he very peremptorily disposes of every proposition as it arises, and shows the futility of the Treaty and the unsanctioned importance given to it. A writer adds:—"There can be no doubt that this ill-considered Treaty showed an extraordinary want of political knowledge and practical understanding on the part of those concerned in it, however worthy and pacific their motives might have been. When presented to Parliament it was totally repudiated and the parties censured who had drawn it up unauthorised, and this body declared that no clique or

3. Sir Edward Osborne, father of the first Duke of Leeds, and President of the Northern Council.

4. Sir John Ramsden, of Byram, a Royalist. In Pontefract during the first siege. He had the command of the first division of the gentle. men volunteers.

5. Ingram Hopton, Esq., probably Col. Hopton, of Swillington, slain at Wincle fight, near Horncastle, in Lincolnshire, 24th October, 1643. His widow married Robert Brandling, Esq.

6. Francis Nevill, of Chevett, Esq.

7. Sir Thomas Fairfax, the Parliamentary general.

8. Thomas Mauleverer, probably Sir Thomas Mauleverer.

9. William Lister, a captain in the Parliamentary forces, slain at. Tadcaster, December, 1642 (oldest son of Sir William Lister, of Thornton).

10. William White, a colonel in the Parliamentary army, was at the siege of Pontefract Castle.

11. John Farrar, probably of Club Cliffe, near Methley.

12. Thomas Stockdale, a prominent Parliamentarian, in frequent cor-respondence with Fairfax, of Bilton Park, near Knaresborough.

\* The Hero of Hull.

party had power to refuse assistance for the good of the common cause."

Rothwell may have been selected as a convenient place for the delegates to quietly draw up such a Treaty on account of the main road from Leeds to the north passing through it, and that it was central for Leeds, Wakefield, and Pontefract, and probably considered as a suitable retreat from the busy scenes of strife already affecting other towns.

After the complete overthrow of the king's party, and the thorough success of the parliamentary, the episcopal form of religion was for a considerable time set aside in England, and the Presbyterian established in its place. In order to do this a certain amount of pressure and persecution was resorted to. Worthy and inoffensive clergymen, because they were attached to the king and the Church of England, were forcibly ejected from their cures.

In Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, arising out of the Civil War, we find the following extract about Vicar Kay, or Kaye, of Rothwell, who was inducted in 1627: "He was a person who was exceeded by none for his learning, loyalty, exemplary piety, incomparable preaching, and great reputation, insomuch that when the king, Charles I., came down to York, he of all the clergy in the diocese was appointed by the Archbishop to preach in York Minster before the king (which he did upon the 15th, of the Second Book of Samuel, the latter part of the 6th verse, 'So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.') The king seeing him at a loss, rose up and repeated the last sentence to him, at which Mr. Kay humbly made his obeisance, got hold of the thread, and finished his discourse without any more hesitation. But the crying sins of loyalty and conformity fell upon this great and good man: he was plundered while he had a stool to sit on and his living sequestered; he and his family were turned out of doors,\* was carried prisoner from place to place, and

\* It is likely that the vicarage was dismantled at this period.

would have perished had it not been for the kindness and charity of Sir John Worsnam,\* of Nostell, who maintained him as long as he lived. There is a private walk at the back of Nostell gardens which at this day is called Mr. Kaye's Walk, where he retired for contemplation. After his expulsion from Rothwell he preached at Wragby, the parish church belonging to Nostell, for some time, until he was pulled out of that pulpit, and a lame sprig, one Horn-castle, usurped his place."

He was also one of the loyal preachers to the garrison of Pontefract Castle whilst it held out for his majesty, and he was in the castle during the siege of that place. He was succeeded at Rothwell by one Robert Armitage (1659). When it was found impossible to hold the castle any longer, Mr. Kay was chosen, along with Mr. Hirst, to treat on the part of the clergy. Mr. Kay died before the restoration of royalty, and therefore could not be reinstated into his office as a reward for faithful and loyal services.

On May 21st, 1643, there was a decisive engagement at Wakefield, and many officers on the Royalist side taken prisoners. In a Tract of the time it is called a "miraculous victory, obtained by the Right Hon. Fernando, Lord Fairfax, against the army under the command of the Earl of Newcastle."

From Mr. Cartwright's notes, kindly lent to me, I am able to give two instances of men of means, residing in the parish during the period of the Civil War who were suspected of aiding the Royalist cause. Accordingly the Parliamentarian party, who had had their suspicious eyes upon them, when uppermost in power, and the war virtually over, came and took stock of their possessions, and amerced them accordingly. These were hard times indeed, but they shall tell their own story.

\* Usually spelt Wolstenholm. He bought the Nostell estate of the Irelands.—Temp. Car. I.

## ROTHWELL.

Royalist Cr.

Paper 2nd, vol. 9.

To the noble Comtee. for compounding wth. Delinqnts sitting in Goldsmith's Hall.

The Humble Petition of William Hemsworth (of Roade in Rothwell). Sheweth,

That yor. Petitionr. was compelled to absent himself from his dewellinge house to followe and solicite his Trade in selling of Manchester and Norwch. wares to mainteyne himselfe and family, wch. trade hee hath followed for the space of Twenty yeres, by reason of wch. absence yor. Petitionr. was suspected to have gon in to ye King's quarters to have ayded and assisted the Kinge, wch. in truth was only to procure some mainteynance for himselfe and family, for wch. cause hee stands sequestred.

Wherefore hee humbly prayeth hee may bee admitted to a favourable compisition wth. consideration to his estate, wch. is truly presented to you in a pticular hereunto annexed.

An hee, &amp;c.,

WILLIAM HEMSWORTH.

took the oath 22th.

of June, 1646.

Seized of one cottage with certain lands in Roothwell, of yearly value of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, out of wh. a rent of 5*/* to the crown for ever. —personal estate of the value of 83*l.* 15*s.* owes 300*l.*

An inventory of ye goods and chattels of Willm. Hemsworth of ye roydes, in Rothwell, taken ye 16 of Janur: 1644.

Item : One range, 2 tables, one liveray cubheard, 3 formes, } 02 10  
5 chaires, 8 buffitt stooles

In ye flor.

Item : One table one chest, one liveray cubhard, 4 chaires, } 02 00  
5 buffitt stooles, one stand bed wth. certaine old bedding

In ye chambers.

Item : 2 stand beds, with some bedding, 3 chests, one chaire, } 01 10  
4 chaire frames

Item : One stand bed, one rugg, a coverlett, one blankitt, a paire of sheets, one feather bed, a litle table, one liveray cubhard, one chist, one chaire, 16 (?) buffitt frames, one range, a chaire frame } 02 10

In ye kiching chamber.

Item : One stand bed, 2 trunle-bed, with certaine bedding, }  
 2 chaires, one table } 02 00  
<sup>sic.</sup>

In ye kiching.

Item : One range, 3 potts, 3 pans, one table, 2 chaires, one }  
 table } 02 00  
<sup>sic.</sup>

Item : in huslement 00 05  
<sup>sic.</sup>

In ye barne.

rye 8l., malt & barley 30l., oxen 11l.  
 6 kine, 12 l., 5 swine 2 l. : wheat & rye sown (?) in hay 1 l., 2 old  
 waines, a waine body, yoakes & teames 3 l.

Signed by Marma: Reyner, Ri: Hopkinson, Thomas Walker,  
 John Casson. Fine 50l.

R. Ce. Papers.

I: 9.

To the hoble. Comtee. for compounding, &c.

The humble Pitition of Richard Bubwith (of Rothwell, Yeoman).  
 Sheweth,

That yor. Petitr. about 4 yeres since was compelled by Sr. William Savile, Knt., the Collonell of the Trayned bands in the County of Yorke, to send a Pick and Coslett wth. other Armes, belonging for ye use of the King's Army, being then prevalent in those parts, and wch. in truth hee could not avoid wth.out Ruyne to himself and family, for wch. cause his estate is sequestred.

Wherefore he humbly prayeth, &c.,

RICHARD BUBWITH.

Seized in fee of a messuage & lands, in psh. of Rodwell, worth 10l. "out of wh. 16/ rent to the crown, also of messuage & lands in psh. of Ferry Friston, value 10l." out of which I pay a Pound of Peppr. yerely to ye Crowne—personal estate 32l.—is indebted 260l.

An inventory of Bs. goods, taken on the same day as Hemsworth's, and by the same people, similar to Hs.—One item runs: "In tubbs, Kitts and Husslement, o 3s. o." B. is described in it as of "Roids Hall, in Roothwell." Furniture in Hall parlour, little parlour, and chambers. Fine 60l.

Another Royalist was Robert Casson, of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, husbandman, who "contributed towards maintenance of forces raised against the Parliament." He petitioned to be allowed to compound, 29th October, 1646. Held a barn, meadow, and pasture grounds in West Ardsley, Middleton, Rothwell, and Stanley, worth £12 10s. per annum. Fined £45.

In looking over the depositions from the castle of York relating to offences committed in the Northern Counties in the 17th century (published by the Surtees Society), we find a curious phase of society as instanced in a case of witchcraft, tried Jan. 11th, 1655, from this neighbourhood, before John Hewley, Esq. "Henry Hutchfield, of Rhodes par. (near) Rodwell, gent., sayeth that about August last, Katherine Earle struck him on the neck with a docken stalk, or such like thing, and his maire upon the neck also, whereupon his maire immediately fell sick and dyed, and he himself was very sore troubled and perplexed with a paine in his necke, whereupon Ann, the daughter of the said Katherine, seeing him so pained, tould him, 'Doth the divell nip thee in the necke? but he will nipp thee better yet.' And the said Katherine hath beene searched, and a mark found upon her in the likeness of a pappe. And the said Katherine clapt one Mr. Franke, late of Rhodes, between the shoulders with her hand, and said, 'You are a pretty gentleman, will you kiss mee?' whereupon the said Mr. Franke fell sicke before he gott home, and never went out of doors after, but dyed, and complained much against the said Katherine on his death-bed." Another case of witchcraft is brought forward. The accused person was committed to the Assizes by Sir John Savile.

A witness says that Mr. Franke languished for three years. The woman was examined by the women of the village, and two witch marks were found upon her—a wart behind her ear and another upon her thigh. There was evidently a lingering belief in the notion that a person might possess an evil spirit within, and so have dangerous and evil power over another, and this even amongst what might be termed the educated people of the day, for such a case of superstition was allowed to be brought before Sir John Savile, an important magistrate of the West-Riding, and who figures in many transactions at this time. We are not informed, however, what punishment was awarded this saucy and impudent dame.

There were trials also for "Seditious Words." A true bill against James Parker, of Rodwell, yeoman, for saying on November 18th, 1663, "I served Oliver (Cromwell) seaven yeares as a soulvrier, and if any one will put up his little finger on account of that, I will do as much as I have done; as for the King (Charles II.) I am not beholden to him, I care not a — for him." The prisoner was acquitted at the Assizes. Liberty of speech was not allowed, and disrespectful words said about the sovereign of the realm were considered as savouring of the treasonable. Albeit, this man has evidently been one of the vulgar sort.

"In 1660, March 1, Jeremiah Milner, of Rothwell, clerk, for not reading the Book of Common Prayer, out on bail." This Milner was a Puritan minister, officiating in the church during the period of the Commonwealth, but after the restoration of Charles II. was brought up on the above charge. Macaulay, in speaking of the unpopularity of the Puritans, says: "They proved as intolerant and meddling as ever Laud had been. They interdicted, under heavy penalties, the use of the Book of Common Prayer, not only in churches, but even in private houses. It was a crime in a child to read by the bed-side of a sick parent one of these beautiful collects, which had soothed the griefs of forty generations of Christians. Clergymen of respectable character were not only ejected from their benefices by thousands, but were frequently exposed to the outrages of a fanatical rabble. Churches and sepulchres, fine works of art, curious remains of antiquity, were brutally defaced."\* The Puritans had conscientious scruples in reference to some objectionable portions of this otherwise glorious old book, but their mistake was its total prohibition.†

We learn that this Mr. Jeremiah Milner was of St. John's College, Cambridge. Upon the Indulgence, in 1672, he preached in the chapel belonging to Lady Rhodes, of

\* Macaulay's History of England.

† See Miall's "Footsteps of our Forefathers" for a full statement.

Houghton, and was chaplain in her family. He was a man of eminent abilities, piety, and zeal, and died March 7th, 1681, aged 41 years.\*

A true bill was brought against John Musgrave, of London, for saying, at Rothwell, on August 20th, 1665, "Now is the time if we will stirre, for the Anabaptists and Quakers are not afraid of the Plague." The culprit was allowed to escape without any punishment whatever.

This no doubt has reference to the persecuting measures passed against Nonconformists. This man, in a spirit of retaliation, now that London is nearly emptied of its inhabitants by the fearful Plague, foolishly endeavours to incite these sects to go and sack the city. In this year, October 14th, the notorious "Five Mile Act" was concocted in pure malice. It was made a crime to attend a Dissenting place of worship, and whoever did so was liable to seven years' transportation beyond the seas. All ministers or divines who refused to take the Test were prohibited from coming within five miles of any town governed by a corporation, or which was represented in Parliament, or where they had themselves resided as ministers.†

In Oulton Lane there is a Quaker's Burial Ground,‡ enclosed within Mr. Calverley's Park, and entered by a door in the boundary wall. It is not marked with gravestones, but merely bounded with a low wall. It is in a sad neglected state. Concerning it the following information has been kindly furnished by Mr. Whiting, of Leeds, a respected member of the Society of Friends, and is taken from the deed of conveyance.

\* Parson's History of Leeds.

† Macaulay.

‡ The first ground belonging to this sect in the West Riding was at Monk Bretton, near Barnsley. A gentleman gave them a piece of land for the purpose, in 1657, in which the first Quakers who died in this kingdom were interred. They allow of no burial service, and seem to have a peculiar objection to outward marks of grief, wearing no mourning apparel, nor marking the last resting place of departed friends by stones or tablets.

"Sarah Metcalf, of Oulton, sister and devizee of William Moore, late of Oulton, clothier, for the sum of five shillings, sold to John North, of Leeds, clothier, John Scott, of Gledhow, Peter Thompson, of Leeds, and Jonathan Lupton, of Oulton, linen weaver, that portion of enclosed ground from a close in Oulton, called the "Dam Close," for many years and now made use of for a burying place for the people called Quakers. Date 1721. (N.B.) Last interment was Martha Lupton, 1820."

This was merely a local burying-ground for the Quakers in the neighbourhood. Singularly it is situated about five miles from Leeds or Wakefield and more than that from Pontefract. Again, may not this incidentally prove that at the time of the passing of the above Act, Rothwell had ceased to be a market town upwards of 200 years ago, if not earlier?

In Ralph Thoresby's Diary (the Historian of Leeds) is this entry:—"June 13, 1709, went by Swillington Bridge, to avoid the rush-bearing at Rothwell." This custom or practice I am inclined to believe did not continue long after the above date, as no tradition remains concerning it, and there is no allusion to its cost in the churchwarden's accounts, which are available as far back as 1720. The purpose of it was, on the Dedication Anniversary, before churches were flagged, and consequently the floors were cold and damp, to spread rushes for the comfort and convenience of worshippers. This would be at first carried on decently and in order, but in course of time probably degenerated, as often such occasions do, into a season of boisterous merriment and feasting; anyhow, when this worthy gentleman heard what was going on, namely, the taking out of the old rushes and the bringing in of the new, he felt sure that a quiet examination of the church was then impossible, and so deferred his visit to some other time.\*

\* The road taken by Thoresby out of Leeds would of course be from his house in Kirkgate to the pleasant and open district of Knostrop, on by the river side past Thorpe Stapleton Hall and thence to Swillington Bridge.

On the 25th of October, 1809, "when George the Third was king," and had entered his fiftieth regnal year, a National Jubilee, in honour of the rare event, was celebrated throughout the United Kingdom. The inhabitants of Rothwell parish, wishful to show their loyalty, made it a time of rejoicing. They formed a procession, and several well-known people were dressed in fantastic costume. Edward Walton,\* maltster, of Rothwell, personated the king, and Nancy Tetley the queen. Men were yoked to a conveyance loaded with coal, and driven by "Captain" Garrett, governor of the gaol. An ox was roasted and a goodly quantity of beer drunk. It appears that the musical part of the programme had to be performed by a neighbouring band (Castleford), Rothwell not then being able to boast of one. In the evening a candle and lamp illumination took place. Afterwards a song was composed and printed in commemoration of the auspicious occasion. We give a copy of its doggerel rhyme as follows:—

A NEW SONG IN PRAISE OF THE REJOICINGS AT ROTHWELL.

*To the Tune of "Retford March."*

Of all the places hereabouts, if I the truth must tell,  
This loyal town of Rothwell now must bear the bell,  
In honour of his majesty they roasted a fat beast,  
And gave away most freely that all should have a taste.

*Chorus.*

Stand firm, be free, and you shall see,  
The glory of this town,  
That Rothwell name shall bear the fame  
All the country round.

There are three loyal Miners† hereabout doth live,  
In honour of his majesty great gift they did give,  
And now for this loyalty it causes us to sing,  
They did it in respect and honour to our king.—*Chorus.*

\* Edward, son of Thomas and Mary Walton; born 2nd March, 1746.

† Messrs. Thomas, William, and James Fenton

A loyal maltster in this town behaved very well,  
In acting of his majesty none could him excel ;  
And in the afternoon we appeared in Lothouse town,  
So now they plainly see we are bucks of high renown.—*Chorus.*

Our king he was attended by a jovial crew,  
And to these loyal subjects great praises are due ;  
By Castleford's assistance they did most sweetly play,  
And marched round the town at night, so concluded the day.—*Chorus.*

The coals that made the fire for to roast this ox  
Was drawn by sixteen stallions, and they were jovial bucks,  
A gentleman he drove them with a stick and a bladder,  
And took great delight in keeping them together.—*Chorus.*

Near unto the churchyard a public-house is there,  
At which he stopped his team and watered them with beer,  
There was a great report we should be short of ale,  
But if there had been more our barrels would not fail.—*Chorus.*

A guinea there was given by a noble gentleman  
For a posset and a dance, disprove it if you can ;  
On Tuesday afternoon the women merry were  
In drinking of this posset and plenty of good cheer.—*Chorus.*

So here's a health unto his majesty, likewise to Mr. Pitt,  
Likewise to Doctor Willis, we've not forgot him yet ;  
Here's health unto these Miners, they are men of great renown,  
Likewise to all true subjects of famous Rothwell town.—*Chorus.*

At Rothwell, in 1815, was a procession on account of the proclamation of the victory gained by the Battle of Waterloo. Several people enacted the principal heroes in the war, such as Blucher, Wellington, Napoleon. There was a dinner given at all the public-houses, and the children were regaled with tea, buns, &c. On the 29th May, 1856, peace rejoicings at the conclusion of the Crimean War were celebrated at Rothwell by the roasting of an ox, in Mr. Bumby's field, in Royds Lane. The streets were decorated, and a

public tea was given, chiefly to poor widows, the tables being spread all along the main street.

### THE PARISH CHURCH.

Before going into the more modern History of Rothwell, and so tracing it down to the present time, we will turn our attention to some of its oldest buildings, and foremost we notice the ancient Parish Church.

The old church of any village must of necessity be always the most remarkable feature of the place. Around it centres the main history of the parish, and associated with it are incidents of a peculiarly interesting character. Churches were intended for spiritual and religious purposes, but in the time of civil strife were employed also for secular uses. They were used as arsenals where armour was deposited ; and the church, on account also of its sanctity, often served as the last refuge in case of imminent and pressing danger. Though our church has a machicolated tower, with loop holes and battlements along the nave, in imitation of the castellated style, originally intended for defence, in this case it may have been only for ornament. The vestry of the church has often been used as a meeting place to discuss and arrange village affairs, and the churchyard formerly was little better than a play-ground, being constantly kept open. Even within memory of living persons common footpaths went across from the entrance near the public house to the Wood Lane gate, and from near the church-well to the north-east gate. But now a more reverential feeling prevails, and the House of God and its precincts are entirely set apart for divine worship and things pertaining thereto.

It is to be regretted that we are unable with our present knowledge to arrive at a conclusive date when the first place

of worship was erected in Rothwell. After the first rude and primitive cross was set up as a rallying point for the faithful, a Saxon church may have been built, perhaps wattle, staked and thatched, or of wood.

Morley, which had the first church, was of this kind, and in Anglo-Saxon times served as the parish for the whole district. It would be too long a distance for this part, and consequently necessitated some humble meeting place here. This for a time supplied the wants of the thinly-scattered inhabitants. Rothwell eventually became separated from Morley and had a parish church of its own, and an ecclesiastical district marked out for its parish, which is maintained to this day. This took place during the lordship of one of the De Lacies, either the first Ilbert or his son Robert, one or both of them, founded and caused a church to be built.

Scarcely any vestige of the first stone church remains. It is, however, certain that it was of the Early Norman style of architecture; for, in digging near the foundations of the present structure, on the north side, in 1874, a Norman capital of a pillar was found, and is now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Stainer, mason, of Rothwell. The capital is ornamented with the scallop and reed pattern, pointing to a style prevalent from 1066 to 1154, such as is in the arches at Kirkstall Abbey, built by the first Henry De Lacy in 1152.\* May we not, therefore, attribute the former church to this great building age?

During Robert De Lacy's banishment, Hugh de la Val, who temporarily succeeded him, about 1130, as lord of the Honor of Pontefract, granted several churches in Yorkshire to the Priory of Nostell, and Rothwell was amongst the number. This grant was confirmed or approved of by

\* Bits of stone with characteristic Norman ornamentation inscribed upon them, such as Norman round arches, twisted patterns, and figures, are inserted in the inside walls, and can be plainly seen in the lower part of the south-west aisle wall and also near the font.

Robert\* when he received possession of his estates, and was further confirmed by Pope Alexander III., in 1159.

The authorities of St. Oswald† would thus possess the revenues in connection with this appropriation, and they would accordingly furnish the officiating priest. In 1254, however, they thought fit to appoint a vicar who would be permanently resident and entirely devoted to the interests of the parish. So we find it recorded that "on the (Kal.) 1st day of July, 1259, Roger de Warwycke, presbyter, was admitted to the Vicarage of Rowel, at the presentation of William Blundell, the Vicar of the Priory, with the concurrent assent of the prior and convent, then patrons of it. The vicarage consisted of the whole altarage and profits thereof, together with the tithe of hay of the Church's demesnes. The vicar shall sustain all archiepiscopals and archidiaconals, &c., and shall have the mansion, which was William de Warwyk's, in the same town." On the 13 Kal., July (19th June, A.D. 1282), William Wickwane, Archbishop of York, made this ordination, viz.: "that the church of Rowel should when vacant be appropriated to the Prior and Convent of Nostell; and the vicarage shall consist in the whole altarage of the church, and in a competent mansion in the town, &c."

We have evidence to show that there was also a "*private chapel*" connected with the Norman manor house, for we read that "Hugh Malet gave his lordship (*totum dominum*) in Rowel (Rothwell) as an endowment to Whitby Abbey."

\* When Robert regained his paternal honor King Henry claimed 2000 marks, and De la Val had £150 for the demesne lands, and twenty knights' fees, which are entered in the *Liber Niger* in 1166.—(Fox's History of Pontefract.)

† Nostell Priory was for canons regular of the order of St. Austin, sometimes called from their habit Black Canons. It was founded in 1121. William de Clifford was the thirteenth prior, and he had this office when the Rothwell gift was made over to this convent. He died A.D. 1277.—(Burton's *Monasticon Eboracense*.)

It is thus stated: "Hugh Malet, son of Ivo, with the consent of Margaret his mother, and of Ralph his son and heir, gave two oxgangs of land in 'Rowelle,' with the '*chapel within the court*,' and also a toft, with all the tithes of the said demesne, which was confirmed by Robert Bishop of Lincoln, the second of that name, temp. Henry II., 1170." —(*Burton's Monasticon Eboracense*.)

Again an inquisition was made in 1290, Edw. I., concerning the estates of Alice De Lacy, and amongst other things a "*manor chapel*" was enumerated, and in our article on the Manor House mention is made of the foundations of a "*chapel*".

The original Norman church appears to have been burnt down, very likely by the ruthless Scots, who up to the early part of the fourteenth century overran Yorkshire, and frequently, as we have before noticed, did considerable damage. They seem to have had a special liking to destroy churches. Marks of fire can be traced on some of the stones of the present building, used again in rebuilding. Some may be seen near the porch, and in several instances the impression is two inches deep. During recent alterations marks of fire were pointed out by the masons in the inner walls.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and the date of its oldest parts (the nave, south aisle, and tower) may be fixed about the latter part of the fourteenth century (Edward III.). It is designated Middle Pointed, or Early English, about the Transitional Period. The porch, which is not of the same date, and comparatively a modern addition, is only attached to the south side and not built in.

In the present church is a "*piscina*"\* near the organ, and a larger square window of three lights at the east end of

\* *Piscina*, a niche on the south side of the altar of a church, containing a small basin and water drain, through which the priest emptied the water in which he had washed his hands before celebrating.

the clerestory, but these may be only coeval with the present edifice.

#### \* FIRST FRUITS AND TENTHS.

From an early period, perhaps ever since the institution of parishes in this island, every bishop and clergyman has been required to pay the amount of the income of his first year's incumbency into a fund called "First Fruits," and every succeeding year, as long as he enjoys the living, he has been required to pay one-tenth of his income into a fund called the "Tenths."

These "First Fruits and Tenths" were annually collected at their full value, and applied to the use of the Pope, when he held religious supremacy in this island. Hence we have Pope Nicholas IV.'s taxation (1290), the book of the valuation being preserved. At the time of the Reformation, when the Papal rule was thrown off, Henry VIII. diverted these taxations into the uses of the State, and made an accurate and full valuation.

The poor financial condition of the clergy in Queen Anne's time touched the compassion of the Queen, who gave up this fund for the benefit and augmentation of poor livings, and it was called "Queen Anne's Bounty." That the payment of it might not operate oppressively, the first year's income was to be paid by four instalments, and all livings of small value were entirely exempt, and hence called "discharged livings."—*Taylor's Ecclesia Leodiensis*, p. 64.

In Pope Nicholas's taxation (1291) the church was valued at £18 13s. 4d., and the vicarage at £8 per annum, but which in his new taxation was respectively reduced to £13 6s. 8d., and £3 6s. 8d.† In the King's books (Henry VIII.), at the time of the dissolution of monasteries, about 1540, the living was valued at £19 12s. 11d., and in 1731, at £41 18s. 10d., being then a "discharged living."‡

After the dissolution of monasteries the great tithes, with

\* The old valuation is still maintained.

† In 1326 the yearly rent of arable land was 3d. to 6d. per acre; pasture land, 1d.; and meadow land 4d. to 10d.; and wheat sold at 6s. per quarter.

‡ The area of the parish was 8,210 acres in 1831, population 6,635. The mines in the parish offered employment to 380 labourers; church room,

the advowson, were sold by Humphrey Mildmay and Thomas Crompton, to George, Earl of Salop, 31st Elizabeth, 1588, and subsequently, after many changes, by the executors of Edward Wortley Montague, Esq., to Charles Brandling, Esq., of Middleton, for £16,000; and in 1862 the advowson was sold to John Calverley, Esq., of Oulton.

Formerly, the vicar's tithe was paid in kind, such as a tenth part of the wheat crop, every tenth sheaf, &c., and even a tithe of milk was claimed by him and brought to the church porch doors every morning.\* The tithe-barn was on the spot, adjoining the church-yard, where Mr. Judson has two cottages now. This inconvenient way of paying the vicar's dues was afterwards commuted† for a money value calculated on the seven years' corn average, and paid accordingly; so that, with improved and cultivated lands, and better crops, the vicar's living or benefice is now about £900.

The Middleton estate was offered for sale in 1862, and with it the "Perpetual advowson, donation and right of patronage and presentation (subject to the life interest of the then incumbent, Rev. John Bell), of the vicarage and parish church of Rothwell," including therein the incumbencies of Lofthouse and Middleton. The vicar of Rothwell having the patronage and right of presentation, &c. The value of Lofthouse is, including house, fees, &c., £140, and of Middleton £145.

1,800—estimated in 1818 at 2,000; 804 additional sittings, of which 644 are free, have been procured, towards which the Society made a grant of £800. Rev. R. H. Brandling was patron. Estimated number of persons attending divine service, March 30th, 1851: general congregation, morning, 320; Sunday scholars, 170; general congregation, afternoon; 236; Sunday scholars, 90; free sittings, 420; other sittings, 688. In 1867 the whole of them were made free. There is a weekly offertory after the morning and evening services.

\* The Vicar of Rothwell is entitled to the tithe of hay and to all other small tithes arising on the ancient farm called Rothwell Haigh. —*Lawton's Collections*.

<sup>†</sup> Tithe Commutation Act passed 1836.

The number of vicars from the commencement to the present Rev. George Heberden, M.A., amounts to forty. According to a register the names of thirty-six appear in Torre's account. The list is now made as complete as possible, founded upon a strict examination of the Church Registers, and brought down to the present time, which is now subjoined; also the date of induction, ecclesiastical degree or title, and the cause of vacation is indicated, and in a foot-note an explanation of the abbreviations used. The names of certain ministers who officiated during the Presbyterian regime are also given, and not being vicars, were not included in that list. It is to be regretted that we know so little of the characters, lives, and works of these earlier parochial dignitaries, men who often by their learning, and in virtue of their holy office, must have exercised a great influence over their parishioners. They would be often the prime movers in the affairs of the parish, both secular and religious, and as a rule would be looked up

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BOTHWELL CHIBBU A Cross Summary

<i>Temp. Instit.</i>	<i>Vicarii Eccle.</i>	<i>Patroni.</i>	<i>Vacat.</i>
Kal. July, 1254	Dns. Roger de Warewks, Pbr.	Pr. and Contus. de Nestell idem, cui Rector Eccle.	p. resig.
2 Id. Sept., 1280	Dns. Alex. de Rowell, Pbr.	idem	...
"	Mr. Alan de Thyrnum, Pbr.	idem	...
3 Id. Jan., 1290	Dns. Joh. de Radeclive, Pbr.	idem	...

• Wins also at Bottow

VICARS OF ROTHWELL—Continued.

VICARS OF ROTHWELL—Continued.

<i>Temp<i>s.</i> Instit.</i>	<i>Vicarii Eccle.</i>	<i>Patroni.</i>	<i>Vacat.</i>
2 July,	Wm. Wharton, A.M.	... ...	... P. mort.
24 August,	Wm. Browne, A.B.	... ...	... P. mort.
*28 August,	James Torre	... ...	... resigned.
20 March,	Samuel Harper	... ...	... ...
21 Feb.,	<sup>a</sup> James Ord	... ...	Charles Brandling... resigned.
	<sup>b</sup> Ralph Henry Brandling	... ...	... resigned.
	<sup>c</sup> John Bell, M.A.	... ...	... p. mort.
	<sup>d</sup> William Smythe	... ...	... resigned.
	<sup>e</sup> George Heberden M.A.	... ...	... ...
25 August,		... ...	... ...

- Curate 31st May 1748, afterwards Vicar.
- Was also curate of Benton, connected with the Brandling estate in Northumberland. He was provisionally appointed, and was nominal vicar until young Brandling became of proper age for ordination. His name does not appear as having performed duty at Rothwell. For nine or ten years, however, he must have held this position, delegating his authority to curates in charge.
- Was born 20th Nov., 1711, and died in 1803, aged 92 years. After a most patient scrutiny of the registers scarcely any trace of Mr. Brandling's name can be found. He was vicar for the space of thirty-three years, but does not appear to have taken a very active part in Church affairs or anything relating to the parish. His father, Charles Brandling, Esq., died in 1802, so that R. H. Brandling became his own patron and succeeded to the Middleton estate.
- July 12th, 1735.—Ralph Henry Brandling, A.B. of St. John's College, Cambridge, ordained Deacon in the chancel within the Palace

of Bishopshorpe, by His Grace William Lord Archbishop of York.  
Feb. 2nd, 1736.—To the Curacy of James Ord, Vicarage of Rothwell.

Feb. 18th, 1796.—Ralph Henry Brandling, A.B., ordained Priest.  
 Feb. 21st, 1796.—Ralph Henry Brandling, Cleric, A.B., was admitted and instituted to the Vicarage of Rothwell, vacant by resignation of James Ord, Clerk, the last Incumbent there, on the presentation of Charles Brandling, of Gosforth House, in the County of Northumberland, Esquire, Patron thereof in full right.

Oct. 30th, 1829.—The resignation of the Reverend Ralph Henry Brandling, of the Vicarage of Rothwell. —  
*From the Diocesan Registry, York.*

c. The Rev. John Bell, M.A., Vicar of Rothwell, Yorkshire, Proctor for Craven, Rural Dean of Wakefield, and Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral, was presented to the living of Rothwell by Mr. R. Brandling, and was inducted in or about the month of August, 1829. He was educated at Richmond, Surrey, and at University College, Oxford, and his first and only curacy was at Shillhole, near Newark, in Northumberland. He married Isabella Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir Charles Loraine, Baronet, of Kirkhaile, Northumberland. Mr. Bell at first lived at Middleton Lodge but afterwards removed to Oakton, where the family have resided until very lately. His brother, the late Matthew Bell, twenty years M.P., for South Northumberland. The father of both was Matthew Bell, of Woolsthorpe, Northumberland, who married a Miss Brandling, by special licence, at Middleton Hall, thus the former vicar, the Rev. R. H. Brandling,

*Of Oriel College Oxford and late Rector of Banmoro, Sinner-*

During the interim betwixt the ejection of Kaye and the instalment of West, as vicar of Rothwell, we come across the names of several ministers.

In 1658 Christopher Wallbanke appears to have been minister of Rothwell. He had a son baptized upon Wednesday, Oct. 27th, 1658, and a daughter Aug. 23rd, 1660. In 1659 Robert Armitage was minister.

In 1662, Oct. 4th, Robert West was instituted to the vicarage of Rothwell by Henry Adams, rector of Rawmarsh, in the Diocese of York. Thomas Wright and Christopher Wallbanke, &c., were witnesses of his induction thus recorded. "This day West read the book of 'Articles of Religion' agreed upon by the Church of England, to prevent diversity of opinions in religion, &c.'" It appears also that in 1669 John Wilding was minister of Rothwell. Burials: "Johes, fil Johi; Wilding, Rothwell, cler., vicesimus secundus, 1669, Septembris." (Church Registers.)

*Temp. Instit.*, time of institution; *vicarii eccl.*, vicar of the church; *patroni*, patrons; *vacat*, the cause of vacation, either *p. resig.*, by resignation, or *p. mort.*, by death; *idem*, the same; *Dns.*, for Dominus, lord; *Pbr.*, presbyter; *cap.*, a chaplain authorised to officiate in the chapels of the sovereign or in the private oratories of nobility. The name is derived from the Latin *capella*, a chapel.

A list of some of the curates during the last 140 years:—  
*Walter Wyate*, 1733; *Ralph Eden*, 1754; (c.c.) *John Taylor*, 1755-1793; \* (c.c.) *William Airey*, 1793-1811; † (c.c.)

c.c. indicates curates in charge. The three under the Rev. R. H. Brandling, who seldom visited his parish, were allowed by the churchwardens to exercise power little inferior to the vicar. Having nearly the whole of the duties of the large parish to perform, a short notice of them seems becoming.

\* *Rev. John Taylor* commenced his curacy a little before the Rev. Samuel Harper's time and ceased in Mr. Ord's vicariate. He was in that office for thirty-eight years (the longest on record). He sometimes signed himself M.A., officiating minister, and at other times plain "John Taylor, curate;" he seems to have been curate of Methley also. He passed rich on forty pounds a year, and lived with Mr. Wm. Houson, a well-to-do yeoman, in the house now occupied by Messrs. Barker, painters, at the commencement of Oulton Lane. It cannot be said that he performed his duties faithfully. His good abilities and preaching were often spoiled and the effect nullified by his irregular conduct, being too fond of sport and good living. On account of oft-repeated misdemeanours, his clerical career was brought to an abrupt and ignominious termination, and what became of him is forgotten. Several queer stories are afloat about this man.

† *Rev. William Airey* was a Scotchman, and his country's twang

*Jonathan Muncaster*, 11th May, 1811-19; ‡ (c.c.) *Joseph Wardle*, 17th Oct., 1819-1830; || *William Blackwell*, B.A., Feb. 1831-1832; *James Horrox*, 1832-1839; *T. Winpenny*, Dec. 22nd, 1839-Dec. 27th, 1840; *John Jenkins*, B.A., Aug. 1st, 1841-Nov. 21st, 1844; *John Swire*, B.A., Jan. 20th, 1845-April 17th, 1848; § *J. H. Thompson*, M.A., April 30th, 1848; § *J. Taylor*, M.A., Dec. 27th, 1857; *Richard Graham*, Dec. 26th, 1858-Oct. 16th, 1859; *D. K. Fiddler*, M.A., Dec. 23rd, 1860-1861; *Charles Jno. Taylor*, B.A., Aug. 25th, 1861-Aug. 21st, 1867; *Sidney Greenwood*, M.A., Dec. 22nd, 1867-made him almost unintelligible. He was a poor preacher, and consequently had a very thin congregation, sometimes as few as five hearers. He lived in the Stone House, at the junction of Butcher Lane and the Marsh, now occupied by Mr. Humble, surgeon. He kept two cows, and gave milk to poor people. By all accounts he would have shone better as a farmer than a parson.

‡ *Rev. Jonathan Muncaster* was a superior evangelical man, imbued with religious feelings, and he kept up the dignity of his sacred office. He interested himself in the education of the children of the village. He was well disposed to other religious parties. He lived at the house in the main street, then Smithson's property, but now used as a draper's shop by Mr. S. Batty. He was proud of his figure, wore the clerical costume of the day—black cloth or velvet breeches, silk stockings and buckled shoes, and a broad-brimmed hat looped up at the sides. He was married but had no family. He removed to Selby as curate, afterwards became the second incumbent of Oulton Church, in 1839, where he died and was buried, May 28th, 1847, aged 72. J. K. Craig was the first perpetual curate at Oulton Church in 1832.

|| *Rev. Joseph Wardle* came from Gildersome. He was a portly gentleman, in character genial and in manners affable, an excellent preacher, and a good singer. He caused many alterations in the church, and thereby involved himself in some difficulty. His ministry was much appreciated, and the gentry of the neighbourhood, the Lowthers, Blaydes, and others, were amongst his frequent hearers, as often many as twelve carriages have been known waiting at the church. He also lived in Smithson's house, occupying, with his large family, one wing. After leaving Rothwell he became senior curate at the Leeds Parish Church, and when a vacancy arose was nominated for the post of vicar; but the Rev. W. F. Hook was appointed. Mr. Wardle, however, became incumbent of Beeston Church, Dec. 2nd, 1831, and died April 1st, 1855, aged 73, and was buried in the churchyard.

§ Became incumbent of Middleton, April 7th, 1850.

Oct. 16th, 1870; (c.c.) *J. R. Crawford*, Dec. 4th, 1870-Aug. 20th, 1872; \* *A. J. Irvin, B.A.*, April 27th, 1874.

The North Choir belongs to the manor of Middleton, and has been the burial place of its successive lords for many generations. The Leigs were Lords of Middleton as early as the reign of Edward III., when they settled in Yorkshire; and the Gascoignes, of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, lived there in the reign of Henry VIII., and later. The registers contain numerous memoranda of the various members of these ancient families, and there are several memorials of both in shape of wall tablets; also of the Brandlings of Gosforth House, Northumberland, who possessed the Middleton estate, and along with it the advowson of Rothwell.

The following particulars of five chantries in connection with our ancient church have been furnished by Mr. Cartwright, and taken from Chantry Certificates in the Public Record Office.

"The Chantrie of Or. Lady in the southsedyde. John Sharpe, Incumbente, the same is of the foundation of Johne Ratcliffe, the Incumbent, to celebrate daily mass and other divine service, and to be in the high quere all festival days, &c., &c., as apperyth. by foundation dated 10 July, 1 Ed. I." (1272.)

The poch,† in compasse xij (12) or xijj (13) miles. Goods valued at xs. (10s.), plate at xljijs. iiijd. (54s. and 4d.) Rental of messuages in Carleton, Hunslet, Woodhouse, Lofthouse, &c., iijj (4£.), xviijs. (18s.), ixd. (9d.) Allowance xi (11s.) ix (9d.)

In 1329 John de Radcliffe, vicar of Rothwell, founded a chantry in Rothwell Church for the celebrating of divine

\* *Rev. J. R. Crawford* was curate in charge under the provisionally appointed vicar, the Rev. Wm. Smythe. Mr. Crawford was a forcible preacher, and a favourite with all sections of society by his kind and agreeable manners and general liberality. He was a staunch friend of the Mechanics' Institute.

† Parish.

service at the altar of S. Mary, for his own soul and the soul of Dame Alice De Lacy, Countess of Lincoln (Torre's MSS.)

"The Chantrie of Or. lady in ye northseyde. Thomas Helme, incumbent, founded by William Scargill. Mass to be celebrated daily, foundation dated 20th Nov., mcccc (1400) iiiijxx (4 x 20) xiiij. (14) (1494). Goods valued at xs. (10s.); plate, lxij. (62s.) vj (6d.); messuages, &c., in Rothwell, Pontefract, Wentbridge, &c., rental vj (£6) vj (6s.) v ob. (5½d.) Allowance, xxvjs. (26s.), viij (7d.), ob (½d.)"

"The Ch of Or. Lady in the Chapelle of Midleton, in the said paroche." Richard Higane, incumbent, founded by Gilbert Leigh, Esq.: "to th'entente in all things as before in the first Chantrie is specified as apperyth by a dede of feoffment, and a will thereunto annexed, date 3 Apl., 10 Henry VII. (1494): \* The chapell distant from poche ch. ij (2 myles; goods valued at iijs. (3) x (10d.); plate ——; messuages, &c., in Salmond Burton, Carelton, West Hard, Gildersome, cijs. (103s.) x (10d.) All. xxxs. (30s.) iijd."

The Chauntrie of Sainte Savior. in the North side. John Hemsworth, incumbent, founded by Thomas Leigh, Esq., "to th'entente as before in the two precedent chantries, is declared as apperyth by a composition dat. 26th Feb. 14 Henry VIII. (1522). Goods valued at vs.; plate at ——; messuages in Lofthouse and Westhardeslawe, rent cx (110s.) Allowance, xiiij. ((14s.) viij (7d) ob (½d.)."

We thus see the names of the devisees of the chantries; their object; the names of the priests appointed for the carrying out of the wish of the founder; the value of the sacred utensils, &c.; the property, the rental of which is to uphold them, and the stipend or allowance to the chantry priest for his services. Of course the values are relative, and would represent more in this day. A chantry may mean either an office or duty performed and unlocalised, but more commonly is situated in a particular part of the church

\* This was not in the church, but was a separate chantry at Middleton, for the use of the Leigh family and the inhabitants.

selected for the purpose specified. Occasionally it appears to be a separate building to itself. The person who officiated was called a chanter or soul's priest.

In the reign of Henry VII., 1505 (according to Kirkby's Inquisition), Dame Maude Neville, wife of Sir John Neville, ancestors of the Nevilles of Hunslet and Liversedge, and who possessed lands in Rothwell, wills "That Sir Walter Harper, preste, have, for his life, the profettes of the houce near the Rothwell church stèle\* called Chapman houce, for the upholding a lamp in Birstall church† over my husband and mee."

In 1508, thirty-two masses were said in our church for the soul of the most Rev. Fader in God, Thomas Savage, Archbishop of York, for which the sum of 10s. 8d. was paid.

The following notes were taken by the celebrated antiquary Dodsworth when he visited Rothwell Church on 19th August, 1620.

*Quire (choir) on a stone.*

A fess in chief, three mullets. "Orate pro animo Henrici Dynely quondam, vicarius istius Ecclesiae, cuius animæ propitius Deus."

*In the South Window.*

Arg. : on a pale s., a luce's head, coped, a fleur-de-luce, or.

*North Quire (or choir).*

Arg. : a fess in chief, 3 mullets sable, paled with arg., three lions passant, purpure.

*Painted on another (North choir) window.*

Em. a Saltier gules (Scargill).

Idem paled with arg., a lion rampant (Stapleton).

S. idem paled with — (Gascoigne).

\* The private or footpath entrances into the churchyards, in ancient times were generally by a turnstile, and we question whether the lich or corpse-gate was ever without one. (Taylor). Bishop Sparrow in his rationale upon the Book of Common Prayer, says, "the priest meeting the corpse at the church stile, &c."

† Birstall church. On the north side of the altar or communion table was the burial place of the Nevilles of Liversedge. (Taylor.) Sir John de Neville was twice sheriff of the county in the reign of Henry VIII.

*North Window.*

England, with a label of five points on each point, two fleur-de-luces, or. (Duke of Lancaster).

During the Protectorate of Cromwell, when the pulpits were deserted and the livings sequestered, in the absence of proper ministers, marriages were solemnized in England by the Justices of the Peace, empowered by an Act passed in 1653. A tax on them was enforced "for a duke £50, a common person 2s. 6d." Thus we find in the church registers of the date, marriages were certified by Sir John Savile, a magistrate of the district at the time.\*

In 1734 the spiritual affairs of this parish during Vicar Wharton's time being in a deplorably neglected condition, the churchwardens, congregations, and inhabitants found it necessary to apply to the Archbishop of York to remedy the evil. The following curious petition they presented to his Grace.

"To the most Reverend Father in God, Lancelot, by Divine Providence, Lord Archbishop of York, Primate of England and Metropolitane."

"The petition of the parishioners and inhabitants within the parish of Rothwell and your Grace's Diocese of York, most humbly sheweth,

"That Mr. Wharton, the Vicar of Rothwell, hath not been resident upon his vicarage of Rothwell for upwards of

\* In 1653 and 1655 he was Justice of the Peace. He was a distinguished owner of Lupset, near Wakefield, and a member of the second branch of the Saviles. He took part with the Parliament against Charles I. The first blood shed in Yorkshire was an attack by Sir Thomas Glemham on Sir John, who was marching with his servants to join Lord Fairfax, when three of Sir John's people were killed and himself taken prisoner. Sir John commanded the garrison at Howley Hall when it was attacked by the Earl of Newcastle, in June, 1643. After three days' battering with heavy guns the house was taken by storm, no quarter to be given to the governor; but Sir John was spared, for which the Earl reprimanded the officer who disobeyed the order. Sir John, in 1645, was employed pressing forward the siege of Pomfret Castle, which surrendered in July of that year.—*Markham's Life of Fairfax*.

thirty years last past, that during the said time we have had several curates, who have discharged the duty of their office very diligently and carefully, whose salary or stipend was duly paid by one Mr. Thomas Barber, pretended sequesterator, or otherwise empowered by the vicar to collect the dues of your parishioners until the death of Mr. Barber, about March last past, but after his death neither his executor or any other person authorised by the vicar did demand or collect any dues from the parishioners, and one Walter Wyate, the then officiating curate, wanting about half a year's salary, and not knowing how to get the same, in or about the month of June last pretended that he had been at the Ecclesiastical Court at York and procured an order there to collect the dues throughout the whole parish then owing and in arrears. And upon the Sunday following the parish clerk gave notice in the church, by virtue of an order from the Ecclesiastical Court of York, the inhabitants were desired to pay their dues and arrears of dues, tithes, wool, and lamb to Mr. Wyatt, between the day appointed for the visitation to be held at Wakefield, at which time and place he was to make his accompts to the archdeacon, and every offender for non-payment would be prosecuted, and the said Wyatt having about three weeks' time to collect the dues in before the visitation, which was held at Wakefield the 6th July last, did collect all or the greatest part thereof; but three days before the visitation he went away with the money and has never been heard of since; that ever since the cure has almost been totally neglected, having no certain curate to officiate, and have been obliged to put the dead persons into their graves without any funeral service, and oftentimes carried our children to be baptised at the neighbouring churches and chapels, as likewise to marry there; that our parish is very large, consisting of seven large townships besides hamlets, and having no minister to officiate. We most humbly beseech your Grace to take our most miserable case into your consideration and to relieve us as

soon as may be, as in your Grace's great wisdom shall think meet, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

"Rothwell, 3rd January, 1734."

In a terrier, dated 1716, which is signed by three churchwardens, no mention is made of glebe lands belonging to the Vicarage of Rothwell. They, however, state "that they can give no exact account of the petty tythes, moduses, or a particular of parts of either of the dues belonging to their church, as it has been continually under sequestration for these eleven years last past."

Another in 1727 mentions nothing but the vicarage house and outbuildings.

Another terrier, in 1742, is signed by W. Brown, Vicar, Richard Houson, Benjamin Benton, Anthony Hutchinson, Edmund Thompson, Gabriel Massie, churchwardens.

In a terrier of glebe lands, &c., July 6th, 1770, is mentioned the "vicarage house and stable, one garden or orchard, with garth or croft. In the Toft Ings, one rood and one half of glebe land, &c. Three bells, one clock, two silver cups, marked Rothwell Parish, 1755, one silver salver, and a silver flagon for the communion service.

"The fences of the churchyard repaired by the churchwardens. Signed, John Taylor, Cur., William Fenton, Marm. Vavasour, John Backhouse, William Thompson, Joseph Speight."

Rothwell church was notorious at one time for "runaway" weddings, something after the "Gretna Green" style, especially so in Parson Taylor's time, as he was commonly called. It was not that this or any other clergyman had a special license or patent to marry fugitive couples, but a certain carelessness or indifference was shown in regard to this solemn ordinance. No strict enquiry being made as to the truthfulness or eligibility of the parties applying. Often for the accommodation of late couples the clock was stopped or put back, and when the interested persons were asked—"What

part do you come from?" they generally contrived to name a place within the parish, whether it was so or not, and almost invariably chose "Carr Lane." Mr. Taylor jocosely remarking that he had married every man, woman, and child in Carr Lane "seven times over."<sup>\*</sup> The ceremony, however, went on, and the candidates for matrimony had their wishes gratified without trouble or hindrance. The facility for clandestine union must have often caused misery, and possibly crime. Happily this loose state of things no longer exists, and a commendable strictness is now enforced.

The church has been altered and enlarged several times during the last century. According to the churchwardens' books, in 1745-6, "Nathaniel Bagnall received certain monies for plastering the church." It was then that the panelled roof spanning the nave, being out of repair, was under-drawn and plastered.

In 1826, when the Rev. J. Wardle was curate in charge, under the Rev. R. H. Brandling, vicar, the old chancel or aspe was taken down and a larger and handsomer one built, but the ceiling was flat. The north side was carried further out, thereby altering and somewhat debasing the original form of the church. Over this north aisle was placed a gallery for the accommodation of the large congregation. Several stained glass windows were likewise provided by the same curate. The interior of the church was still debased in its arrangements. On the west end, near the tower, were galleries; one for the congregation, another for the organ, and a third for the singers or choir. At the front of the lowest gallery were placed the "Royal Arms." There was also a low gallery on the south aisle, for the scholars entered by steps in the porch. The body of the church was high-pewed, and had wretched mud floors covered with straw.

Formerly the choir was placed in the loft, ascending out of the chancel on the north-east side, directly over the Lady's Chapel. It was composed of instrumentalists: fiddlers,

\* From old Mr. Seanor's account.

flutists, players on the clarionet, and French horn. In 1801 their names were Marmaduke Gibson, George Armitage, John Gibson, Joseph Gibson, all of Rothwell; William Farrer, Mark Davy, Robert Haigh, all of Oulton; Thomas Priestley, of Carlton. In later times James Burwell played the violoncello, Edmund Thompson and James Verity the violin, Thomas Clarkson the flute, John Smith the French horn; and the three clarionet players were John Gibson, Thomas Flockton, and James Young. In 1814 the first organ was erected by Ward, of York. Mr. Joseph Boyle, worsted spinner, of Flint Mill House, then in the hollow near the present vicarage, Rothwell, was the first organist; afterwards David Brittain, who was nearly blind, and died August 13th, 1848, aged forty-one years. He was succeeded by Mr. James Clarke, of Prospect House.

A choir of male and female voices was now formed and much encouraged by Mr. Wardle, who possessed a beautiful voice. The late Rev. John Bell, Vicar, took great interest in the choir, and, under the talented leadership of Mr. Henry Kirkby, who commenced his tuition in February, 1843, it became very efficient and noted for its excellency. Dr. Hook, the then Vicar of Leeds, after a sermon he preached in Rothwell Church, passed a high eulogium upon the choir, comparing it favourably with his own celebrated choir. The present choir-master is Mr. Wilson, of Leeds, and organist of a church at High Harrogate.

A new organ was opened in 1867. It is a fine instrument, made by Radcliffe and Sagar, of Leeds. "It consists of two manuals, great organ and swell, and two octaves of pedal pipes, with composition and swell pedals. The organ has twenty-three stops: the clarionet and flute in the great organ, and the cornopean and double diapason of the swell are very fine in their effect." The present organist is Mr. Henry Sheldon, a native of Rothwell.

During the vicariate of the Rev. John Bell many excellent internal improvements were made in a church-like manner.

In 1841 the oak roof was uncovered, and pronounced to be a good specimen of fourteenth century work in its style and carving. It has many grotesque and symbolical figures carved on the bosses. Some then deficient were consequently replaced. The west gallery was taken down as useless, and the organ and choir removed. The flat ceiling of the chancel was taken down in 1849,\* and in 1850 new roofed in a pointed style. The wood work was done by Mr. William Gibson, joiner, and clerk of the church. The new arches separating the choir from the nave were put in by Mr. Henry Stainer.

In 1867 the old pews were taken out of the nave and north aisle and were replaced by open seats, whose ends represented flowers, animals, and figures, cleverly carved by Mr. Bates, of Leeds, and by Charles Gibson, then nineteen years of age, the son of the clerk. A beautiful reading desk, lectern, and pulpit were put up, also the work of Mr. Bates. Some of the devices on the reading desk and pulpit are symbolic, such as a "bell," with "Johanne" upon it, and "Vicario" underneath, with date A.D. 1867; and others referring to our Lord's sufferings and passion. The chancel was adorned and suitable furniture supplied, various smaller alterations being made in putting in perpendicular windows in the south side. In 1864 the stained window, given by William Fenton, Esq., of Glass House, in 1770, representing the "Lord's Supper," after Da Vinci, was taken out, on account of its meanness, and became destroyed, and replaced by a beautiful stained window, by Harman, as a thank-offering from the pupils of Iveridge Hall.

Mr. Bell dearly loved his church. He was respected by all who knew him for his straightforward and honourable dealings. He was fond of theological and antiquarian pursuits, as the rare and valuable library which he left behind him, bears witness. He was tall and imposing in his movements. He had a good voice, which filled the church. He

\* The cholera year.

was a plain but earnest preacher. In December, 1859, a testimonial, in the form of a silver dinner service, was presented to him as a token of respect after having been vicar for thirty years. His death was most sudden and unexpected, and he was much lamented by his parishioners, after having faithfully and honourably discharged his important duties for forty years. He died on the 14th October, 1869. A large number of relatives, clergy, and friends, followed him to his grave, which is marked by an unassuming granite cross tomb, in Rothwell churchyard. in 1872 a memorial window, of three lights (representing SS. Peter and Paul), with the resurrection in the centre, was placed in the east window of the north aisle, "by the parishioners of the late Canon Bell, upwards of forty years Vicar of Rothwell."

After undergoing several large and important alterations and repairs, in 1873-4, the church was re-opened December 11th, 1874. The alterations, effected under the superintendence of Mr. Chorley, of Leeds, were as follows:—"The old gallery was removed from the north side of the church, the outer wall lowered, five arches instead of three put in, and above these arches clerestoried windows, corresponding to those of the opposite side. By the removal of the staircase leading to the gallery the north aisle was lengthened 20 feet, and accommodation obtained for 105 more persons. A new roof was put on. In addition, the chancel floor has been raised, the altar rails renewed, and the warming apparatus extended. Under the tower a new choir vestry was formed. The total cost of the work was about £1650, and of this sum all but about £50 was raised before the opening services."—*Yorkshire Post.*

We will now continue our history of the music connected with the church. In 1837 a subscription was made throughout the parish, and six bells were ordered from the celebrated firm of Taylor and Co., of Oxford. On January 29th, 1837, they were brought by water to Swillington Bridge. Their arrival caused a great stir in the neighbourhood, and they

were conveyed next day to Rothwell; but after a few months' use the tenor was cracked, the defect being remedied the year after and two trebles added, making altogether eight bells, a full peal.

On the day of the opening of the six bells the Rev. J. Wardle, formerly Curate of Rothwell, but then Incumbent of Beeston, preached from the following text, viz.:—"In that day shall be written on the bells of the horses, holiness to the Lord."

On the tenor bell is inscribed—

"To speak with mellow tone and never swear,  
John Taylor taught us, with a father's care;  
Tongues, screws, and clappers keep well in place,  
Then for an age sound well in grace."

The inscription on one of the three bells of Swillington Church (two of them are dated 1656) is—

"When I do ring,  
God's praises sing ;  
When I do toule,  
Pray heart and soule."

T.L. and T.W., Churchwardens.

Church bell-ringing in country places has been and is still carried out with some spirit and pride. Change ringing meetings of the members of various neighbouring belfries were formerly more frequent at Rothwell. In the bell chamber is a printed board recording several remarkable feats, one of which we select—"A peal of 8000 changes rung on Sunday, July 18, 1841. It was a complete peal of Kent treble bob majors, in five parts, composed by the late Mr. Hugh Wright, of Leeds, and ably conducted by Mr. Benjamin Ely, of Rothwell, and brought round without a bell out of course in four hours and forty minutes by the following bell-ringers:—

1st Treble—Wm. Scott, Wakefield. 5th Treble—A. Goldthorpe, Rothwell.  
2nd , James Firth, , 6th , —T. Dawson, Bradford.  
3rd , Wm. Gibson, Rothwell. 7th , —Benjamin Ely, Rothwell.  
4th , S. Smallpage, Leeds. Tenor—G. Milnes, Wakefield."

In 1756 a resolution was passed by the Churchwardens, that the hearse, which was then the property of the church, and kept in the Old Hearse House, in Church Field, near the north-east entrance gate, should not be lent out of the parish, except for the use of those who had formerly belonged to the Rothwell parish. A hearse was then absolutely necessary as bodies had to be brought very long distances previously to the building of other churches, and the formation of their respective graveyards.

The registers upon the whole are in good condition and all but complete. They are well bound in 10 vols., the first volume is of paper and the rest of vellum or parchment. They commence in 1538 (reign of Henry VIII.), soon after the appointment of parochial registers in 1530-3. They are divided into spaces for weddings, christenings, and deaths. Earlier accounts of the church were recorded in the Nostell Coucher Book, which, as Mr. Bell observes, must contain valuable information. This book is probably at Oxford along with the Dodsworth MSS. and many other documents relating to the northern monasteries. The registers are written in Latin up to 1590, and afterwards in English. Since 1813, July 28th, separate volumes are used for births, weddings, and burials, as ordered by law, "for the better and more truthful regulation of them." Volume 5, 1635-49, is in a rather torn condition, and the writing almost illegible; this is accounted for as happening during the period of the Civil War, when the Cromwellian party became supreme, and there was little reverence for church property. In 1728 the registers were slovenly kept, the writing bad, and the accounts crowded into one another. This was in Vicar Wharton's time. The oldest registry is that of a Hunt, of Carlton, in 1545. This family resided at the Old Hall or Manor House of Carlton, from the time of Edward II. to the reign of Henry VIII.\*

\* The Hunts held under the Earl of Lincoln, as Lord of the Manor of Rothwell (A.D. 1232-1312), a capital messuage, and land, and other property,

Rothwell itself does not appear to have produced many notable men. We meet, however, in the registers with the name of one born in the parish who became famous as a scholar, namely, Richard, a son of Thomas Bentley, of Oulton, who was baptised 6th February, 1661 (O.S.), and who was born 27th January, 1661, at Oulton. His father was a yeoman, and possessed a small estate at Woodlesford. He married a daughter of Richard Willie or Willis,<sup>t</sup> stone-mason of Oulton, who had been an officer in the army of Charles I. To this gentleman, who was his guardian, Richard Bentley was indebted for his education. Richard was sent to a school at Methley, afterwards to the Wakefield Grammar School, and he subsequently became one of the most celebrated classical scholars in England, as well as a great theological controversialist. His education was completed at Cambridge. He became chaplain to Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester. He was afterwards appointed preacher of the lecture instituted by Boyle for the defence of Christianity, and delivered a series of discourses against atheism. He appeared to great advantage in the famous controversy with the Hon. Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery, relative to the genuineness of the Greek epistles of Phalaris. He was appointed Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and in 1716 became Regius Professor of Divinity. He died at Cambridge July 14th, 1742, aged 80 years. According to existing portraits he had a noble and commanding appearance. His ancestors were respectable and had long possessed an estate at Heptonstall, in the parish of Halifax. James Bentley, the grandfather of Richard, was a captain in the royalist army during the Civil Wars. He was involved in the fate of his party; his house

and a right to hunt with hounds outside the park, by the payment of a rose if demanded, and on conditions of having harehounds ready for the earl when requested by the forester.—*Whitaker's Loidis and Elmete.*

\* In the church registers appears amongst the burials, "1695, April 18, John, son of Roger Willie, buried, Wriglsworthe;" "Roger Willies, of Oulton, buried ye same day, 7th July, 1700."

was plundered, his estate was confiscated and he died a prisoner in Pontefract Castle. It is said the family originally sprung from Derbyshire. Bentley signifies a field of prayer. The *arms* are or, three bendlets sable; *crest*, a spaniel dog passant arg. Henry Bentley, Esq., the noted brewer, of Eshald House, Oulton, is a descendant. The house in which the celebrated scholar was born and lived is now occupied by Mrs. Armitage. It was formerly called "Bentley's Cottage," but is now known as the "Vine Cottage." It is situated in the yard adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel, and is a quaint and pleasant residence.

The names of some of the most prominent families found in the Registers are:—Barrow, Bysett, Spencer, Esthall, Reidman, Lynley, Bussy, Hyltome, Hylton, Bekk, Jardome, Elwyffe, Byschopp, Gost, Vevers, Topclyff, Bartlott, Byrkley, Becwyth, Storre, Wheyteley, Fleather, Fladd, Boythers, Breze, Bradeforth. These appear before 1555. Armytage in 1539; and later Bayns and Oley, 1541; and afterwards, John and John, twin children of John Sayvell, were baptised 15th December, 1547. Proctor occurs 1543, and later. Edward Gawkeroger, of Karleton, was buried, 1547. Between 1553 and 1620 are the names Bynyngton, Moynson, Pryston, Hepstynstall, Birdhead, Birkhead, Barestow, Hansson, Frybisher, Cartwright,\* Savile, &c. Some of the old names still exist in Rothwell parish, such as Flockton, Dobson, Copley, Roydhouse, Appleyard, Ferher (Farrer),

\* William Cartwright was clerk of the peace for the West Riding, *temp.* James I., certainly lived in the parish in the first few years of the 17th century, at Middleton. Margery, one of his daughters, was one of the four wives of Sir Ferdinando Leigh. The license for this marriage was granted by the Ecclesiastical Court, at York, in 1601, in churches of Rothwell, Skipton, or Waddington. John Cartwright, his son, had a license to be married, in 1604, in churches of Rothwell, East Ardsley, or West Ardsley. Another daughter of William Cartwright, the aforesaid married a Gascoigne of Thorpe.

Swift, Chapman, and Walkers and Humbles,\* formerly well-to-do yeomen, of Middleton. The occupations of people are occasionally mentioned, such as "corvisor" (shoemaker), in 1635, "colier," 1639, and "clothier," 1640.

On the font the initials of the churchwardens for 1662 are engraved, and by the help of the registers the full names can be made out. Unfortunately, however, the township which each respective churchwarden represented is not given. The names are as follows:—Nicholas Westerman,† Richard Wormall, Robert Butterfield, Roger Swift,‡ Robert Hardistie, John Johnson, Thomas Robson. In 1652 they were George Hopkinson,§ John Layster, Martin Stansfield, Robert Heptonstall, Danyoll (Daniel) Jobson, Thomas Casson,|| John Johnson; ¶ Robert Armitage was minister.\*\* In 1735, for Rothwell, Joshua Fenney; Oulton, James Burnill; Carleton, William Bell; Lofthouse, John Pyemont; Rhodes and Hague, Joseph Smirthwaite; Middleton, William Wrigglesworth; Thorpe, Benjamin Armitage. From the churchwardens' accounts, since 1712, the following dates and names, which may be interesting, have been extracted. In 1730 Smirthwaite, Pulleine, Houson, Westerman, Crampton, were churchwardens; in 1732 Anthony Clarkson; in 1740 John Holmes, Maltster, Carleton; in 1746 William Vavasour; in 1748 William Vevers, Richard Butterfield, Isaac Bulmer, Robert Field, Richard Mann, E. Thompson, and John Casson; in 1745, Fenny, Waugh, Young, Stocks, Wilkinson, Vevers; in 1751 William Boulton, John Sowden, and others; in 1754 John Methley and others; in 1771 William Fenton, for Middleton; in 1785

\* Richard Humble was churchwarden for Middleton in 1790, and steward for Middleton Collieries. He died in July, 1798.

† Probably of Lofthouse, an old name there.

‡ Certainly of Carlton.

§ Banks says brother of the antiquary.

|| Of Middleton.

¶ A Thorpe name.

\*\* Called vicar in one instance, but is not on Torre's List.

William Houson, &c.; in 1791 J. Barber, Edward Walton, Godfrey Binks, &c.; in 1782 Jos. Banks, J. Squire, Wm. Smith, William Dickinson, Isaac Banks, Joshua Appleyard, John Walker—John Taylor was minister; in 1790 T. Fenton, for Rothwell and Rothwell Haigh.

*Parish Clerks:* Robert Hey, master linen weaver, of Oulton, was also clerk at Rothwell Church. He entered on his duties the 11th January, 1729, filled the post for forty-two years, and was buried in the churchyard, 22nd September, 1772, aged seventy-three years. At his death Thomas Hey succeeded him in office.\* At the death of Thomas Hey, October 17th, 1780, aged forty-four years, Joseph Gibson became clerk. He died 9th February, 1814, and was succeeded by his son John in 1814. On the death of John Gibson his sons, John and William, successively officiated, the latter for nineteen years.

At Rothwell Parish Church in

1737	there were	12	Marriages,	94	Baptisms,	47	Burials.
1745	"	17	"	64	"	53	"
1747	"	22	"	76	"	51	"
1814	"	—	"	—	"	107	"
1817	"	—	"	—	"	112	"

In one of the Registers it appears that a Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., was buried 11th day of September, 1747, from Middleton Hall. In answer to an inquiry whether the deceased gentleman was an ancestor of the Baroness Burdett Coutts or not, that lady says "that he was no relation of hers, but was probably connected with a Yorkshire family of the same name." In a List of the Baronets of England from their first Creation, May 22, 1611, to May 24, 1722, the name of "Francis Burdett" occurs July 25th, 1665. He may have been the ancestor of the one buried from Middleton. In a note in Banks' Walks about Wakefield, it states that John Sylvester bought Birthwaite estate, near Barnsley, from Sir Francis Burdett, about the year 1700.

\* The grandfather of John Smith.

William Fenton, Esq., of Glass House, died 16th October, 1774, and was buried at Hunslet Chapel, undoubtedly the churchwarden before alluded to, but not the one of colliery fame.

From testamentary burials in Rothwell Church we glean the following :—

- 1482. 22 Oct. John Preston, vicar, buried in the chancel.
- 1486. 20 Aug. Robert Hunt, of Carleton, near Rothwell, giving his soul to the blessed Trinity, St. Mary, and all saints, and his body to be buried in the church of St. Trinity, Rothwell. Will proved September 5th, 1486.
- 1489. 6 Oct. John Heppron, of Lofthouse. Will proved May, 1491.
- 1542. 22 Oct. Robert Lyndley, of Thorpe-on-the-Hill. Will proved July 12th, 1543.
- 1565. 14 April. Gilbert Legh, of Mydleton. Will proved 8th June, 1565. Buried in chancel called St. Saviour's, founded in the north part.
- 1548. 9 Feb. John Pilkington, Vicar of Rothwell. Will proved March, 1548. Buried in the chancel *edified* to the Holy Trinity, by the high altar end, whereat the *sepulchre* was accustomed to stand.
- 1569. 17 Mar. John Haggard, L.L., Vicar of Rothwell. Administration of his goods taken.
- 1587. 18 June. John Gascoigne, of Thorpe-on-the-Hill. Will proved 5th August, 1587.
- 1627. 2 July. Richard Bubwith, Vicar of Rothwell. Will proved 18th January, 1627.
- 1666. " Robert Leyburn, of Dalton. Buried in Rothwell Church.

Within the altar rails formerly, but now at the entrance of the chancel door, is part of an inscription the full text of which was :—"Here lyeth the body of William More, late minister of Rothwell, who was faithful in his ministry and loyal to his majesty, who died 20th day of March, A.D. 1664." This person, for a long time vicar of Whalley, quitted that benefice about a year before his decease to reside at Rothwell, which was probably his birth place.

At the back of the organ, in 1854, was a gravestone to a person at "Loftas," dated 1660. From the Registers :—

- 1733. Robert Gibson buried.
- 1742. April 10th, Henry Houson buried.
- 1754. Mr. Worthington, buried from Middleton Hall, Papist Priest.

On the font, which is octagonal or eight-sided, is inscribed C.R. (Carolus Rex), 1662, and the initials R.W. (Robert West),\* who was only five months vicar ; the name "Wrothwel," the only instance of it being so spelled, and "Vicarius," also the initials of the churchwardens of the same date, before referred to. The font used to stand a few yards nearer the western part of the south aisle, and must have been a new one in the place of the old one destroyed by the soldiers of Cromwell. This erection took place immediately after the accession of Charles II., when episcopacy was restored. During the Commonwealth, ecclesiastical affairs were entrusted to officiating ministers, and not to ordained vicars, and many country churches suffered from neglect, and got out of repair.

Until recently an elaborately carved oak canopy was suspended from the ceiling over this font. At one time it was whitewashed to correspond with the font and the ceiling, and to suit the strange taste of the age. It was afterwards scraped, but is now laid aside and in a broken condition.

There is a remarkable tablet just over the south door of the chancel recording in Latin, after the pedantic style of the period, the virtues of John Hopkinson, gentleman, of Lofthouse. He was the son of George Hopkinson of that place, and was born at Lofthouse, near Wakefield, 1st August, 1611, and baptised at Rothwell on the 29th November, 1611. He was the founder of the celebrated collection of Heraldic MSS.; an antiquary and genealogist of great note in his day, whom subsequent antiquaries and historians are much indebted to for the results of his great industry.

\* A tablet to his memory is at the extreme north-east end of the chancel.

He was Deputy-Clerk of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire in the reign of Charles II., and collected a large amount of curious and valuable information relating to the whole of Yorkshire, he also traced out with much patience many pedigrees of Yorkshire families.\* On this account he and his property were respected during the Civil Wars, and he received no hurt. Letters of Protection were granted to him by the chiefs of the rival parties.

His register of his burial is as follows :—" 1681, March 4th, Mr. Jo. Hopkinson, gener., buried, Lofthouse." The house he occupied at Lofthouse is by the side of the Wakefield Road, and is now partly used as the Post Office.

The following is a copy of the inscription on his monument :—

Hic juxta situs est. Johannes Hopkinson  
de Loft-House generosus,  
Vir ob. multifariam, insignemq; præsertim  
In hujuscē Gentis legibus Historiā  
Antiquitate, totaq; re Heraldicā  
Eruditionem, cum primis numerandus,  
Posteritati narrandus,  
Qui postquam omnibus quæ Homino-civi  
Christiano incumbunt officiis  
Inconcussā vitā integratate  
Summā sinceritate per functus.  
Emenso tandem LXX. fere annorum stadio  
Integra ubique famā  
Bonorum omnium amor, et deliciae  
Cælo maturus,  
Fato non invitus cessit.  
Pridie: Kal: Mar: Anno: Sal.  
MDCLXXXI.

The substance of the above may be translated as follows :—" That he was a person highly esteemed for learning, and skill in laws, history, antiquities, and heraldry. One who had performed all duties devolving on man as a Christian,

\* Copies of four volumes of these Pedigrees are in the Leeds Library, corrected and enlarged by Thomas Wilson, F.S.A., of Leeds.

with integrity and sincerity, and having finished his course of seventy years with an unblemished character, the love and delight of all good men, and being mature for heaven, died."

In the vestry is a traditional relic of bygone days, namely, a vest or coat said to have been worn by "time-honoured John of Gaunt," Duke of Lancaster, and father of Henry IV. This undergarment is made of strong coarse canvas, well and firmly wadded with sheep's wool ; it consists of several layers about three-quarters of an inch thick and quilted with twine. Its width across the back is about 19 inches, an unusual breadth. The coat is shaped to fit close to the neck and down to the hips. It has arm-holes bound at the edges, but without sleeves. It is now a mere remnant of its former size. This padded body protector has been, in all probability, intended for a rest for the armour. It has evidently had hook-clasps to fasten it at the front. If we examine the defensive armour of the 14th century, as given in "Boutell's Arms and Armour," we shall find that the coat (cotte) worn by the men of arms as their undergarment was called the quilted "pourpoint," which was without sleeves, and over this for defence they placed a shirt or tunic of fine mail, a little longer than their pourpoint and having sleeves. This they termed the "haubergeon." Some fifty or sixty years ago there were some pieces of armour and a helmet, these were sent to the Tower of London by one of the vicars. The late John Smith remembered that these relics were kept in the vestry chamber, seventy-five years ago, approached by a ladder. The coat he saw was cloth-faced, and had steel ribs at half inch intervals. It is only right to state that several gentlemen of antiquarian repute have thrown discredit upon this coat's connection with John of Gaunt, and they deem it merely an ordinary jacket of a common soldier of the period.

On one of the stained glass windows of the north aisle are inscribed the name and arms of William Lyley, gentle-

man, of Lofthouse, nat. A.D. 1615, ob. A.D. 1685. His grave-stone is now placed near the vestry door, and the figures in imitation of his coat of arms are rudely carved, very different to those beautifully painted on the window, viz.:—Gu, a lion pass. guard or crowned or; *crest*, an arm in armour, hand with a gauntlet, grasping a war mace, all ppr. Also the names of John Bell, vicar, A.D. 1829, and William Blackwell, curate, 1831, appear on the same window, with their respective escutcheons. On a window nearer the west end are memorials of the Faviell family, and brass plates are set in the wall near the family burial place. There is also a sculptured marble monument erected by Mr. Faviell to the memory of his first wife. It is very chaste and beautiful. It consists of two figures, a man and a child, the features are finely chiselled: the man's head is almost Byronic in its portraiture; that of the child is lovely, and both are devotional in expression. The drapery in its folds and seeming transparency is exquisite; altogether it is a charming work of art. On the upper part of the slab is inscribed, "Thy will be done." It cost over £1000. The sculptor was Towne, of Gray's Hospital, London, 1842, evidently a disciple of the Chantrey School. The inscription on the pedestal is as follows:—"Sacred to the memory of Mary Ann, the affectionate wife of Jeremiah Bourn Faviell, of Horbury, in the County of York, Esquire, who died in the 24th year of her age November 29th, 1841;" she was the daughter of Mr. Edmund Dawson, of Rothwell, steward for Messrs. Charlesworth, a tablet of himself and wife also appears. Mr. Faviell was a railway contractor and coal proprietor, and he executed the short line from Horbury to Wakefield. For his second wife he married at Frankfort-on-the-Maine the sister of the one to whom the monument is erected. He died last year at Sawley Hall, near Ripon. His wife survives him.

There are tablet memorials of modern date of some of the members of the wealthy and respected families of the

Vavasours,\* the Stockses, the Waughs, the Dobsons, the Harrisons, also of the Flocktons and others.

On the western side of the tower is an ornamented canopied niche, intended for some statue which has disappeared, and under which is a shield bearing the arms of the Dyneleys,† viz., a fess in chief, three mullets, but it is nearly past recognition. Members of this family, Dr. Whitaker says, either were at the cost of its erection entirely or contributed a large share towards building it. The stone work of the nave and south aisle is much worn by weather and length of time. Some of the crocketted pinnacles are much decayed, the carving on the projecting gargoyle is in several instances effaced, and pigeons now make use of the apertures in which to rear their young.

Restoration is imperative. Steps have already been taken to rebuild the upper part of the tower‡ and to

\* Gravestones of this ancient family are in the yard near the vestry window, and formerly had inscribed brasses let in; but these are wanting with the exception of one, and this had been taken away and was found, and placed in the inside of the church on the north aisle wall.

† A Thomas Dynlaye was buried at Rothwell, September 6th, 1546. There was an ancient family of the Dyneleys at Swillington in this neighbourhood.—*Thoresby*. In 1484 Henry Dyneley was Vicar of Rothwell.

‡ On Saturday, April 14th, 1877, Mr. Thomas Stainer, mason, commenced to take part of the tower down as far as the corbel table, and to rebuild. The length of the new pinnacles, from the base resting on the corbel table to the extreme point, is 14 feet, and the whole length of the tower is 25 yards. Subscriptions have been set on foot also to erect a new clock in place of the present defective one. The grave-yard is already enlarged for the fourth or fifth time and enclosed with a good stone wall. The new portion was consecrated on Thursday, April 26th, 1877, by Bishop Ryan, who is acting on behalf of the Bishop of the diocese during his absence from England. It is now (1877) twenty-one years since a portion of the ground was thus set apart in Rothwell for burial purposes, and during that period there must have been at least 2100 interments. Dr. Longley (afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury) was then Bishop of Ripon, and performed the ceremony of consecration.—(*Parish Magazine*.) Mrs. Ann

repoint the lower part, so that in a few years we shall have a well-restored church.

In the porch is a stone inserted in the wall (the latter part already crumbling away) with this quaint epitaph:—

In Memory of Thomas Flockton, Sexton, fifty-nine years. Buried 23rd day of February, 1783, aged 78 years.

“ Here lies within this porch so calm  
Old Thomas, pray sound his knell,  
Who thought no song was like a psalm,  
No music like a bell.”

Rev. T. Taylor, M.A., erected this stone.

There is a mistake here, Taylor's name was “John,” as the registers show. In copying the old inscription the mason has mistaken the name, when the stone was put in.

The Flocktons are an old family in Rothwell, and have been sextons, father and son, for at least three generations; and one of them, John Flockton, was vicar's churchwarden for twenty-four years. The Flocktons were succeeded in office, as sexton and clerk, by Mr. Major Sheldon; and after him, Mr. Edwin Whitehead, the present sexton.

Over the porch door is a sun-dial, with an excellent motto, “*Vigilate et orate*” (watch and pray), and J. Verity, *Fecit Lat.* 53, 45.

In the churchyard are a few curious epitaphs worthy of note, though the wording on the older gravestones is generally of a common-place character.

Jesse Haigh placed on the tomb-stone of his wife, though he did not mourn her loss very long:—

“ Here lies here one who was,—was what?  
Think what a wife should be, and she was that.”

On a box tomb-stone in the south part, dated 1776, and lettered in old Roman characters, is:—

Price, of Rothwell, and Mr. Walter Cordingley, of Carlton, near Ouzelwell Green, were both buried about the same time, and were the first burials in the new portion.

“ Near to this Urn there lieth one  
Jane Wife of Isaac Banks alone;  
A Loving Wife, a tender Mother,  
In this wide World serch such another.  
The time of her Sojourn here  
Was Forty-Eight, or Very near,  
September Ninth, Seventy-six.  
Her Last Moments God then did fix.”

Near, on a tomb-stone, in memory of William Pickersgill, and his son William, of Thorp, 1720 and 1743, is written—

“ Sleep, blessed creatures, in your urne,  
My sighs and tears cannot wake you,  
We must but stay until our turn,  
And we must overtake you.”

On a tomb-stone (south-west part), in memory of John Westerman, dated 6th day of December, 1774:—

“ An inoffensive man is gone,  
Who gain'd the love of every one.  
An husband kind and father dear,  
A servant true, a friend sincere,  
In all his dealings steady, just,  
Returns unto his native dust.  
Impartial Death will no man spare,  
Therefore to follow him prepare.”

From a head-stone near the old Hearse House we select the following in reference to Elizabeth Darwin, daughter of Joseph Sugden, of Carlton, who died September 23rd, 1843, aged forty-eight.

“ Her manners mild, her temper such,  
Her language good and not too much.”

Near the west gate, on a head-stone, is inscribed—

In Memory of Robt. Skelton, *coal miner* of this parish. He dy'd Nov. 23, 1764, aged 25 years.

“ In youth's high tide of blood my soul took flight  
(From instant health) into the realms of night,  
So short the date, so narrow is the span  
Which separates Eternity from man.”

On the south-west is a tomb-stone of the Walker family. The oldest name is selected.

"Here lyeth the body of Robert Walker, of Middleton, who departed this life ye 30 day of October, and in ye 73 year of his age. Anno Dom. 1716."

On a small head-stone, with scalloped border, is inscribed, at the east end:—"Here lyeth ye Bodye of John, ye son of William Cellar, of Woodlesford. *Qui obiit* ye 14th day of October, Anno Dom. 1725, aged 20 years."

On a tomb-stone in the south part, close to the church, is recorded that "John Pyemont, of Lofthouse, died 15th June, 1782, aged 70 years."\*

On a low square tomb-stone, at the north east end, is carved in antique lettering, "Here lyeth interred the body of William Milner, who departed this life the 5th day of February, in the fifty-sixth year of his age, Anno Domini 1706."

The following is at the south-west end of the church:—

Sacred to the Memory of  
Andrew Heartley, late of Lofthouse,  
Who died June 4th, 1818,  
Aged 73 years;  
Also of Mary, widow of the above,  
Who departed this life on the 4th day of March, 1829,  
Aged 77 years.

"They both died on the faith of that religion which assures its votaries that the most humble may aspire to a seat near the Almighty's throne.

\* "In 1737 Mr. John Pyemont, bachelor, and Miss Anne Keeling, spinster, were married by Mr. Wise, by virtue of license granted by the Vicar of Otley." They were members of two old and important families. Mr. Pyemont was a churchwarden and yeoman at Lofthouse, and Miss Keeling, of Rothwell, was daughter of Mr. Richard Keeling, steward to Lady Irwin. They lived in a large house in the main street before Smithsons had it, Dr. Pyemont Smith, of Leeds, was a maternal descendant of the above family.

"This stone is the humble tribute of a son's affection, who has to thank the beloved tenants of this tomb for good, moral, and religious instruction which, together with an education better than is usually given to the humble in life, has enabled him to attain a respectable rank in his profession.

"Reader, honor thy parents."

Subjoined are copied inscriptions from some of the oldest gravestones. At the side of the walk leading to the north-east gate is a curious-shaped stone with the name of William Dobson, 1677, fairly visible. It is in the form of an anvil, perhaps in memory of a blacksmith. It is covered with lettering which looks like poetry, the leading words can be made out, but not the consecutive sentences. It was found by Sexton Sheldon in opening a grave several yards down. At the east-end near the wall, on a flat stone with ornamental border, is in olden style—"Here lyeth interred the bodyes of Anne and Elizabeth, ye daughters of Samuel Naylor, of Long Lofthouse,\* who departed this life ye 25th of December, 1712."

Nearer the church on a raised stone is "M. S." (old English capitals),† "Jacobus Moore, Filius Gulielmi Moore et Nepos Gulielmi Moore, of the same name, de Rothwell, yeoman. He was baptized 30th day of July, 1648, and was buried here September, 19th day, 1714."

Near on a tombstone, "Here lyeth the body of James Fether, of Oulton, who departed this life the 3rd day of December, in the 43rd year of his age, Anno Domini 1715."

On an ornamental bordered flat stone is recorded, "Here lyeth the body of Mr. Francis Grosvenor, of Rothwell, gentleman, who departed this life the 17th day of May, in the 57th year of his age, Anno Domini 1716."

We will now notice a few memorials of the male

\* So called on account of it being a straggling place.

† "James Moore, son of William Moore, and nephew of William Moore," &c. This was formerly a substantial family in Rothwell, but the name is not in existence here now. Several are at Oulton.

ancestors of the members of the Oulton branch of the Calverley family. On square tombstones (recut) near the steps, going to the vaults, is inscribed—"Robert Calverley, of Oulton, died 18th April, 1674, and was interred at Rothwell;" "Matthew Calverley, son of above, died 15th February, 1727, aged 75 years;" "William Calverley; son of above, died 17th March, 1729, aged 45 years." "Here lie the remains of John Calverley, Esq., Alderman of Leeds and Mayor of that borough, A.D. 1772, who died on the 27th day of November, 1783, in the 66th year of his age;" "Also the remains of John Blayds, son of above, died February 21st, 1827, 74 years of age." "Here lie the remains of John Blayds, Esquire, of Oulton, who was nearly forty years an Alderman of Leeds, and thrice Mayor of that borough, he departed this life the 11th day of November, 1804, aged 74 years."

On a broken raised flat stone, just outside the chancel door, is cut "Sacred to the memory of an eminent man in his profession, Joseph Blackburn, of Leeds, died 21st February, 1788, aged 50 years." At the north-east end, not far off the walk, is a stone "In memory of Joshua Crabtree,\* late of Barwick-in-Elmet, who departed this life the 22nd day of February, in the year of our Lord 1820, aged 70 years;" "Also Elizabeth, wife of the above said Joshua Crabtree, who died the 8th of September, 1824, aged 82 years."

In the north-west corner near the tower is this memorial on a tombstone to the noted Blenkinsop, Mining Engineer, inventor of a locomotive steam engine, "In memory of John Blenkinsop, upwards of twenty-three years steward of the Middleton estate, died January 22nd, 1831, aged 47."<sup>†</sup>

\* Left charities to widows and orphans, and to the Sunday-school at Rothwell.

<sup>†</sup> In 1811 he took out a patent for a locomotive steam engine, and placed his designs for execution in the hands of Messrs. Fenton, Murray, and Wood, at that time an eminent firm of mechanical engineers, Leeds. This was the first locomotive engine in which two cylinders were employed,

Gravestones of the Humbles, of Middleton, are placed about here, one, a tombstone of a costly kind in its day, is surrounded by palisades, but has now a neglected appearance and is fast falling into decay. It is partly constructed of slate.

At the east end, not far off the wall, on a low square

and in that respect was a great improvement upon the earlier attempts of Trevillick and others; the cylinders were placed vertically, and were immersed for more than half their length in the steam space of the boiler. The boiler was of cast-iron, of the plain cylindrical kind, with one flue, the fire being at one end and the chimney at the other. It was supported upon a carriage resting, without springs, directly upon two pairs of wheels and axles, which were unconnected with the working parts, and served merely to carry the engine upon the rails, the progress being effected by a cog-wheel working into a toothed rack cast upon the side of one of the rails. Mr. Blenkinsop's engine began running on the railway extending from the Rev. R. H. Brandling's collieries, at Middleton, across Hunslet Moor, and to the coal staith at Leeds, a distance of about three miles and a-half, on August 12th, 1812, being the birth day of George IV. Its appearance created great excitement. In 1816 the Grand Duke Nicholas (afterwards Emperor of Russia) examined it with lively interest and with expressions of great admiration. An engine dragged behind it as many as thirty coal waggons, at a speed of about three miles and a-quarter per hour. For want of a proper knowledge of steam regulation the engine burst, and several persons were killed. Clumsy, however, as this first engine was, it gave the idea of locomotive power being put to commercial uses, years before George Stephenson brought out his improvements upon it, therefore it is only right to give honour to whom honour is due. As a man of science, and as a benefactor to his country, Blenkinsop's name will be handed down to future generations as amongst the foremost in this enlightened age for the invention of a steam engine for conveyance, which has led on to results so beneficial to the human race, and has proved the glory of this century. It is affirmed that the Gosforth coal mine accident, at Middleton, affected him deeply. He died on Saturday, January 22nd, 1831, after a tedious illness. As a generous and disinterested friend his memory was long cherished by a numerous circle of acquaintance. In his station as agent he commanded the entire confidence and esteem of his employers, and also lived highly respected among the working-classes, and died sincerely lamented by all who in any way were connected with him.—Chiefly extracted from *Taylor's Leeds Worthies*.

tomb-stone, is written in Latin, translated thus :—"Thomas Beckwith, gent., and died 18th June, 1751, aged 60."\*

Near, "Joseph Sigston, of Oulton, died 3rd September, 1769, aged 63 years." "Richard Jackson, tanner, Oulton, died 16th November, 1762, aged 45."

Near the east wall, on a tomb-stone, "Christopher Jewison, coroner, died 5th March, 1870, aged 84." A stone near records the melancholy deaths of two of Mr. Jewison's sons, Joseph and Thomas, who were found drowned in the New Cut, at Methley, whilst bathing, 21st August, 1836. The younger, Thomas, sacrificed his life in attempting to save his brother. The vicar, Mr. Bell, preached a sermon the next Sunday (which was printed for private circulation) founded on the sad occasion.

On a head-stone, in the new part, is inscribed, "Edward Bowden Long," died 17th December, 1864, aged 37 years. Stone erected by the teachers, scholars, and friends of the Wesleyan School, Rothwell.

On the base of a beautiful granite pillar is recorded the death of Mr. Joseph Hargreaves, February 25th, 1874, aged 59 years. This was erected chiefly by his own fellow-workmen, as a tribute of affection and as a mark of gratitude for his untiring efforts as colliery steward to protect their lives when employed in the mine.

On a plain, low square tombstone, in the newer part of the burial-ground, appears in black lettering this simple inscription: "In memory of Charles Forrest, senior, of Loft-house. Born February 11th, 1805; died October 24th, 1871." He was a native of the Forest of Knaresborough, and brought up by his grandfather, at Whitwall Nook, about six miles from Harrogate. His early education was

\* A Thomas Beckwith was born at Rothwell in 1730. He was a painter and antiquary at York, and died 1761. He edited Blount's *Fragmēta Antiquitatis*. Beckwith married the Rev. J. Taylor's sister, who was curate of Rothwell; and Beckwith's daughter, after her father's death, went on the stage, and was married to the Earl of Craven.

received at West House School, under the tuition of the late Mr. William Cockett. For a short time Mr. Forrest was a schoolmaster, in the village of Birstwith; afterwards he obtained an appointment under the late John Charlesworth, Esq., and removed to Lofthouse, near Wakefield, where he resided more than thirty years.

Mr. Forrest was a painstaking and trustworthy antiquary. He wrote a good work on the "History and Antiquities of Knottingley and surrounding district." He frequently contributed antiquarian and biographical sketches to various journals. He was also an occasional contributor to *Notes and Queries*. In conjunction with his friend William Grainge, he published "Rambles on Rumbold's Moor," in which he gave an account of early British antiquities of the district, and drew attention to the sculptured rocks then recently discovered near Ilkley. "A Sketch of the Life of Hopkinson, the Lofthouse Antiquary and Genealogist of the 17th century," was from his pen.

He collected a most valuable library of works on the archæology, history, topography, and antiquities of Yorkshire, more particularly about the neighbourhood in which he lived. Some of them are rare and costly. He also amassed a large number of engravings, consisting of views of ancient buildings, churches, and portraits of eminent persons, chiefly with the object of illustrating local history. He was a close student and an extensive reader. His leisure hours were incessantly employed in his favourite studies. Many important and valuable notes are inserted in some of the volumes, written by himself in a clear and beautiful hand, and thereby considerably enhancing their value. He also made a most interesting collection of articles from newspapers and other periodicals bearing upon pre-historic, archæological, and ecclesiastical subjects, and bound them up into many handy, and in some cases beautifully-illustrated volumes. By this means was preserved what might otherwise have been fugitive or nearly useless and forgotten.

Many antiquaries and others thankfully acknowledge the important and genuine information he was ever ready to impart to earnest inquirers. He was a churchwarden for several years and a regular attender at the Rothwell church. He was much respected by Mr. Bell, the late vicar, who himself had congenial tastes. Mr. Forrest was quiet and unassuming in his manners. He held an important position in Messrs. Charlesworth's employ, the coal proprietors of Lofthouse, and for many years was to them a faithful and valued servant.

We give the following as cases of longevity from tombstones:—"Robert Swift, of Carlton, died July 28th, 1833, aged 88;" "Mary, wife of above, died December 21st, 1839, aged 88;" "John Swift, of Carlton, died April 23rd, 1866, aged 86;" "Elizabeth Gough, of Woodlesford, died December 31st, 1851, aged 88;" "John Gough, of Woodlesford, died January 29th, 1852, aged 92."

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.

1803, June 29, Ann England, widow, Royds Green, aged 103	
*1805, Sept. 11, Jane Garon, widow, Oulton, aged .....	100
1839, Jan. 17, Ann Bussey, Lofthouse, aged .....	97
1824, Mar. 16, Mary Bates, of Cushworth, late of Oulton, aged .....	96

\* She died on Wednesday, September 4th, 1805, on the day in which she completed her hundredth year. The name is spelled "Garon" in the Registers, but it seems to be "Garrand." She was the relict of Mr. Garrand, formerly a respectable and opulent Lisbon merchant, but the greatest part of whose property was swallowed up by the dreadful earthquake which destroyed that city in 1755. On that fatal occasion Mrs. Garrand was alarmed by a violent shaking of the room and of the chest of drawers in which she was depositing some of her husband's linen. She instantly fled out of the house, and escaped destruction, after having the afflicting misfortune to see a beloved son and daughter overwhelmed in that tremendous convulsion. She then returned to England and soon after lost her husband, retired to Oulton, near Leeds, where she resided until her death. This respectable old lady retained her mental faculties unimpaired to the last.—*Taylor's Supplement to Leeds Worthies.*

*1797, May	Mary Grave, Rothwell, aged .....	96
1821, Sept. 16, George Foster, Bellisle, aged .....	95	
1804, April 25, Abraham Rhodes, Royds Green, aged...	94	
1831, Jan. 6, Jane Whitehead, Oulton, aged.....	94	
1814, Oct. 9, Mary Gibson, Rothwell, aged .....	94	
1843, Dec. 8, Joseph Dobson, Carlton, aged .....	94	
†1849, April 2, Charlotte Hill, Carlton, aged .....	94	
1825, July 16, John Farrar, Lofthouse, aged .....	94	
1838, Mary Spink, Windy Hill, Middleton, aged .....	93	
‡1874, Jan. 9, Ann Seanor, Rothwell, aged .....	93	

\* She died in Rothwell Workhouse, retaining all her faculties till within half-an-hour of her death, and could read, knit, and sew without spectacles.

† Her mother lived to the age of 115, and died about fourteen years ago.

‡ This venerable lady was born in a house near the Mill Dam, Rothwell, September 18th, 1781. Her father was a brickmaker. She possessed a wonderful faculty for dates and circumstances. She remembered that her father began digging clay in the month of September, 1791, but on account of a severe frost setting in had to give it up, and could not resume until March following. After the breaking up of the frost in 1792, floods were the consequence, and the bridges were washed down, houses were inundated, and all about the church covered with water so that the people could not attend church. She could remember the decayed buildings of the vicarage, and used to describe them in her lively manner; how she went, along with others, to the Sunday school at the Workhouse on the Marsh; the appearance of Wood Lane, called the "Bell Horse" Road to Leeds. Mr. Taylor, the humorous curate, came in for a share of her descriptive powers. For eighty-three years she was a most consistent member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society. She was remarkably apt at quoting Scripture and could readily give favourite texts. She delighted in speaking of the early and venerated preachers of Methodism. Her son was the late respected Mr. Richard Seanor, a successful tradesman, and founder of the match manufacturing business in Rothwell; he was a polite and kind gentleman, very economical in his habits, and a member of the temperance society, and a long and faithful office-bearer in the Wesleyan Society. He did not long survive his mother, dying April 22nd, 1876, at his residence, Church Field House. Old Mrs. Seanor left a large number of relatives, including seven children, twenty-nine grandchildren, and a hundred great-grandchildren.—Partly extracted from the *Rothwell Times*, Jan. 22, 1874.

1819, Dec. 28, Hannah Thompson, Lofthouse, aged ...	91
1823, Aug. 5, George Harrison, Carlton, aged .. ....	91
1831, Feb. 6, Thomas Wilson, Rothwell, aged ... ....	91
1754, Oct. 14, Wm. Holmes, widower, from the Work-house, aged .. ....	91
*1830, Jan. 4, Benjamin Jewitt, Carlton .. ....	91
†1834, June 19, Robert Bramham, Ouzelwell Green, aged ..	90
1804, Mar. 9, William Bolton, Carr Lane, aged.....	90
1843, Nov. 6, William Hill, Carlton, aged.....	90
‡1846, May 12, William Machan, Lofthouse.....	90
1810, Jan. 18, Margaret Wrigglesworth, Newton, aged ..	89
1812, Mar. 10, Laurence Taterstall, Rothwell (decay of nature, aged.....	89
1807, April 24, Susannah Bilsborough, Rothwell, aged..	88
1811, June 9, Sarah, widow of William Gibson, Rothwell, aged.....	88
1812, April 5, Anne Barker, decay of nature, aged.....	87
1805, Dec. 8, Thomas Clark, Thorp, aged .. ....	86
1810, April 26, Richard Wright, East Moor, near Wakefield, aged .. ....	86
1802, Aug. 16, Sarah, wife of John Field, Rothwell, aged ..	84
1805, June 4, Margaret Walton, widow of Thomas Walton, aged .. ....	84
1807, Nov. 19, Elizabeth Moore, widow of James Moore, Rothwell, aged .. ....	84
1808, Nov. 2, Edward Hanson, Cryer Cut, aged .. ....	84
1810, July 29, William Harrison, Lofthouse, aged ... ..	84
N.B.—Some of these turned 80 years of age are not given as examples of extreme longevity, but as names and dates	

\* A member of the Society of Friends.

† Was a waterman, at Stanley, and married for his first wife a Miss Atkinson, of West Hall, Methley. The family grave of the ATKINSONS is at the east, end but is now covered over. No male representatives of Bramham are living, but several female great-grandchildren, now married, reside in the parish. Widow Idle, of Ouzlewell Green, is his granddaughter, aged eighty-two.

‡ Joiner, of Lofthouse Gate, near Wakefield.

useful for reference. This does not pretend to be an exhaustive list, on searching the Registers several others might be found.

The village of Oulton contains a large number of old people, which proves it to be a clean and healthful place. Many of the men who have reached an advanced age have been chiefly employed in rustic pursuits, and this has ensured a lengthened existence.

The following is an unique illustration. In the Chapel Yard at Oulton reside five persons whose united ages amount to 428 years, averaging 85 years a-piece, viz., Mrs. Armitage 91,\* Mrs. Metcalf 88, Mr. Metcalf 85 (both having been married 62 years), Bessy Rimington 83, Elizabeth Firth 81. Again, long residents of this place are Jonas Jowett, aged 93, Benjamin Jowett 80, Joseph Jowett 77, all brothers, and living now. They dined together last August at their eldest brother's house, at Tingley Common, West Ardsley.

Thomas Moore, tailor and upholsterer, of Oulton, lived to 97 years of age. When in his 90th year Mrs. Blayds ordered his portrait to be taken in oil, by Mr. Atkinson, of Hunslet. This portrait, said to be an excellent likeness, is now in the possession of Mr. John Walker, of Oulton. Moore seems to have been a healthy, robust old man. William Moore, shopkeeper, of Oulton, is his grandson.

To reach eighty years of human life in Rothwell is now uncommon. Since it became a mining village long ages have become rarer. No doubt the casualties and unhealthiness of the coal miner's occupation have had an influence in causing this, coupled with less simple modes of living and

\* Born at a farm at Little Busby, Stokesley, Cleveland. She has always been very temperate in her habits, seldom taking alcoholic drinks. She has lived the most of her life at Oulton, being a tenant of Mr. Calverley's in the same house for upwards of forty years.

eating.\* There are, however, a few persons living now over eighty. *Mrs. Houson*,† relict of Mr. Joseph Houson,‡ is in her 87th year; *Nanny Ward*, in her 87th year; *Laurence Wilson*,§ in his 82nd year; *Mrs. E. Dobson* (maiden name Oliver) 83 years of age, has lived all her lifetime within the parish, and is quaint and humourous in her expressions; *Jonathan Ward*, farmers' man, rope and twine spinner, and pinder (has been all these), is now in his 87th year, and looks much younger, having a good natural head of hair and none of it grey, and a good set of natural teeth; he is remarkably healthy looking, strong, active, and hearty.

To return to the churchyard. The older portion is greatly disfigured by the ugly square tomb-stones, the taste, however, is now improved, and in the newer part some very beautiful pillars and head-stones have been erected: for instance, the grey granite pillars in memory of Francis Carr and Joseph Hargreaves; the grey granite upright slab, with cornice surmounted with an urn, to James Dickinson, of Carlton House. A six-tableted horizontal ornamented tomb-stone, surmounted with an urn partly draped, and stone painted, to Daniel Pawson, of Robin Hood. The tomb-stone to Ellen, wife of John Brown, Springhead, Rothwell, consisting of four pyramidal steps graduating smaller, surmounted with a large cross, on which is inscribed I.H.S., it is of polished granite; and many others of a less-imposing character.

The dead from Middleton were generally interred at the

\* More oatmeal porridge, "aver" cake, and milk diet used to be taken by our forefathers, and fewer stimulating drinks,—more out-door employment, and less mental excitement.

† The daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Smith, formerly a large tanner and leather currier, and an extensive landowner, at Ouzelwell Green.

‡ He died September 27th, 1869, aged 80. He was the last male descendant of a long line of wealthy yeomen, and who were firm supporters of the Church. Mrs. Alfred Parker is the only surviving child.

§ He is able to do a good day's work at delving and gardening yet.

west end, those from Carlton and Lofthouse south-west, Oulton and Woodlesford east end. The original boundary of the yard was all the south part, stretching to the Hearse Gate on the north-east, and to Wood Lane Gate on the south-west. Half an acre was added in 1835, bounded by the present middle walk, and was consecrated by Vernon Hacourt, Archbishop of York. Since then it has been twice enlarged, and now covers a very large space. The appearance of the churchyard is one of calm and beautiful repose. It is kept in good order, and may be said to be a model village burial-ground. The wall on the west, going up Wood Lane, was built in 1803, under the superintendence of William Walton and Joseph Smith, surveyors. In April, 1738, eight yew trees were set in the churchyard, only one remains.\* The trees now on the side of the walks were mainly planted in the early part of the Rev. Jno. Bell's† vicariate by his orders.

The charities in connection with the church must be mentioned. The account of them, until a few years back, was painted on two boards placed against the wall leading to the gallery on the north aisle, but during the alterations in 1874 they were deposited in the ruinous National School close by, and were destroyed. A printed copy of some of them, if not all, is suspended over the vestry fire-place, which is as follows:—

"A particular of several sums of money and yearly rents out of houses and lands, given by several persons to the poor of the parish of Rothwell for ever."

*Robert Glover*, late of Oulton, left to the poor of this

\* On Tuesday, November 11th, 1800, four yew trees were planted in this churchyard by the vicar, R. H. Brandling, viz.—at the north gateway, two; at the south-east gate, the innermost tree; and at the south-west gate, the southernmost. Thomas Flockton and John Twaite dug the holes.

† The tomb-stone of William Prince was the first which was set up in this ground. A horse-chestnut tree, near the east entrance, marks the line of the old ground. The new wall was built by one Vincent Hardwick, of Rothwell, mason.—"Mem. in Registers."

parish three roods of land, half an acre lieth in goose, 18s. acre. Riggs, and the other rood in Barley Banker, and is now in the tenure of John Looker, of Oulton, who pays for ye same yearly, the sum of 18s., due upon St. Andrew's Day, and is thus divided: Rothwell, 4s. 5d.; Rothwell Haigh, 2s. 5d.; Oulton and Wrigglesworth, 3s. 9d.; Lofthouse and Carleton, 4s. 1d.; Middleton and Thorpe, 3s. 4d.

*Edmund Scholefield*, late of Oulton, left to ye poor of this parish £1 4s., to be paid £1 4s. yearly out of a close called Weet Royds, lying in Oulton, Mr. William Calverley late owner, which sum is due on Good Friday, and is thus divided: Rothwell, 6s.; Oulton and Wrigglesworth, 6s.; Lofthouse and Carleton, 6s.; Middleton and Thorpe, 6s.

*William Wood*, late of Oulton, to the poorest of Rothwell, Oulton, and Wrigglesworth, 9s., to be paid yearly out of a dwelling-house left in Fulton, on the north side of Esh Royd (William Dobson, of Carleton, now owner): Rothwell, 5s.; Wrigglesworth, and Oulton, 4s., on St. Thomas's Day.

*Samuel Bubwith*, late of Dorts, in the province of Holland, left the poor of the parish, £20.

*Walter Calverley*, late of Wrigglesworth, £6.

*Roger Swift*, late of Rothwell, £10.

*Mrs. Ann Wetherill*, late of Oulton, £10, which four last sumes are in the hands of Robert Calverley, of Rothwell, who hath given security to the late vicar and churchwardens of this parish for the yearly payment of 46s. upon the 14th of March, and is thus divided: Rothwell, Royds, and Rothwell Haigh, 16s. 8d.; Oulton and Wrigglesworth, 10s. 6d.; Lofthouse and Carleton, 10s. 10d.; Middleton and Thorpe, 8s.

*Elizabeth Casson*, widow, left to the poor of this parish one acre of land, lying in Holmsley, occupied then by Humphrey Moore, who pays for the same yearly 13s., on St. Thomas's Day, and is thus divided: Rothwell, 4s.; Oulton, 2s.; Wrigglesworth, 3s.; Carleton, 4s.

*Thomas Scholes*, late of Rothwell, 7s. yearly, left to the

poor of Rothwell, which sume is now in ye hands of Mr. George Scholes, of Great Preston, due on St. Thomas's Day.

*Roger Swift*, the elder, £24. £12 in the hands of Charles Myers, of Carlton, coming from land lying in Orgrave Field, 3 roods and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, and in West Field paying 14s. yearly, Roth., Rhodes, and Haigh, 4s. 6d.; Wrig. and Oulton, 3s. 6d.; Lofthouse and Carlton, 4s.; Middleton and Thorpe, 2s.; 14s. and ye other 12s. is in the hands of Roger Swift, of Carl., who pays 10s. 20th April, and is divided Roth., Rhodes, and Haigh, 5s. 9d.; Wrigg and Oulton, 3s.: Loft. and Carl., 2s.; Midd. and Thorpe, 1s. 3d.

*Roger Swift* the elder, for the poor, left a close near Temple Newsam, occupied by Lord Irwyn, who pays 16s. yearly due on Good Friday, and is divided amongst the parish Roth. and Roth. Haigh, 6s.; Oulton and Wrigg., 3s. 3d.; Loft. and Carl., 3s. 9d.; Midd. and Thorp, 3s.

*Thomas Townend*, late of Carlton, £7 to the poor of Carlton only, in the hands of Charles Stead, who pays for ye same, 18s. 2d. on Lammas Day.

*William Lyley*,\* £5, result of Brighty Croft, lying in Lofthouse, now in the occupation of John Pyemont, equal portions at Midsummer and Christmas. Rothwell, £2; Lofthouse, £2; Carlton, £1.

*William Birkenshaw*, late of Rothwell, 6s. 8d. a-year, to be paid out of a house in Rothwell occupied by Elizabeth Jerrington, due on Candlemas Day.

*Mr. Foster*, £26, put into the hands of Richard Nettleton, Esq., 26s. a year for everforth of a close called Blackburn Close in ye Rodes, the 26s. to be distributed in bread amongst the poor at the church. Sixpence every Sunday.

*Mr. Charles Robinson*, 26s., to be paid out of his whole estate by his heirs, at Christmas, for ever, and is now paid by Christopher Hodgson, and is thus divided: North Rodes, 7s.; Oulton and Wriggleworth, 7s.; Lofthouse and Carlton, 6s.; Rothwell, 6s.

\* Left about 1685.

*William Moore*, on St. Thomas's Day, for a piece of Rodes common inclosed, 3s.; Rothwell, 2s.; Oulton, 1s.

*Matthew Calverley\** or his heirs, 4s., St. Thomas's Day for ever, to Rothwell only.

*William Birkenshaw*, late of Rothwell, 6s. a-year for Rothwell, to be paid out of a house in Rothwell now occupied by John Cheesborough, due on Candlemas Day.

*Mr. George Scholes*, for Rothwell 10s., due on St. Thomas's Day

There used to be a William Scargill's Charity, founded in 1492;† a Roger Hopton, of Swillington, was appointed one of the trustees, but it has become of non-effect and forgotten.

There is still in force Mr. Joshua Crabtree's Dole of £20, to the poor widows and orphans residing in the towns or hamlets of Rothwell and Oulton only, exclusive of Royds Green and Woodlesford; £10 for Rothwell and £10 for Oulton, to be distributed on the 21st December (St. Thomas's Day) in each year, by the minister or one of the church or chapel wardens of the respective places. He also gave an annuity of £5 each yearly to the Sunday Schools at Rothwell and Oulton. All this, according to a copy of his will, was not to take place until after the death of his wife Elizabeth, which happened in 1824. The will is dated the 19th November, 1819. The executors appointed were Thomas Stoner,‡ miller, of Barwick-in-Elmet. John Atkinson, of Leeds, and John Blayds, Esq., the younger, of Oulton. For several years the donation to the Sunday School was exclusively received by the Wesleyans on the ground that Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree were Wesleyans and intended it for that body; but as a "Wesleyan" Sunday School was not specified in the will, the Vicar (Mr. Bell) thought it only just that the amount should be equally divided betwixt the two parties, and so it obtains at present.

\* 1727.

† Banks's Walks, 291.

‡ Brother of David Stoner, the noted Methodist Preacher.

Mr. Crabtree lived at Oulton in the house now occupied by Mr. A. Brears, joiner, and Mr. Jowett, inspector; he was a maltster. It is believed that he obtained a good deal of wealth from trade in the West Indies. He retired from business and lived at Barwick-in-Elmet, died in 1820, and was buried at Rothwell Church. His wife survived him for four years, living at first in a Mr. Thomas Slater's house,\* said to be built by him for her residence, but she disliking its inconvenient entrance and small rooms named it the "Salt Pie," alluding to its shape. She refused to live in it any longer and resided in the house now occupied by Mr. Marshall, Post Master, where she died and was buried in the same grave with her husband in Rothwell Church yard.†

For Oulton and Woodlesford there is a "Webster's Charity," chiefly for the benefit of poor and respectable widows, irrespective of creed or party. Eleven used to have £10 yearly paid in quarterly instalments. It is now divided amongst seven, four at Oulton, and three at Woodlesford, leaving about £15 annually. Also respectable orphan females turned 50 years of age, and apprentices of both sexes (so it is understood) are eligible to share in its rich bounty. Mr. Webster it is said was a clergyman, and resided at Woodlesford.

#### THE OLD MANOR HOUSE.

In the Manor Garth, near the Church, there is still standing an interesting relic of Norman times, a piece of grouted work, about 18 feet high and 8 feet in diameter, evidently a quoin or corner of some inner wall. If unmolested it will probably withstand time and weather for many years to come, so firm is the masonry. It has, however, got less, but almost imperceptibly. "Time grinds slow, but

\* Now occupied by Mr. Wright, Cabinet Maker.

† See a copy of their gravestone previously given, page 104.

surely.\* As one writer † very well observed in the *Rothwell Times*, it ought to be preserved and protected by a palisade as a "memorial of the past," carrying us back to an ancient period of social life.

This is a remnant of the Norman castlet, as we shall prove further on. Taylor, in his "Worthies of Leeds," compares the so-called "Castle of Leeds with the one at Rothwell," terming them both strongly-fortified manor houses, but not important feudal fortresses, like unto Pontefract Castle. And he further observes that they were erected about the same time, that is, under Ilbert De Lacy's domination.

The extent of the enclosure in connection with the Castlet, and its courts and outbuildings, has been rather large: for, in digging a drain from Sterroid Well to the Church Well, in 1874, the workmen came across foundations of walls at the depth of four to five feet. The "enceinte" is judged to have been about one acre in extent, as some of the foundation stones were uncovered about 100 yards from the present ruin.

In sinking the "Rose Pit,"‡ in the Pastures, the men came upon the spring which supplied the well,§ and they found a broken sink, with marks of burning upon it, and some buck horns. It seems pretty clear that the ground about here has been heaped up with the *débris* of the crumbling walls, &c., of the old Castlet, and has been afterwards levelled and grass grown over. Some future generations in digging about here may possibly find treasure of an interesting kind.

\* A similar description of it was given by Dr. Whitaker, in 1816.

† "Springwell" (James Baines).

‡ Derives this name from the wild hedge roses growing at the time in May near the place. The pit was sunk in 1850.

§ The issue of the Church Well was formerly about thirty-five yards higher up, and just by the Manor House. The spot was marked by a stone in the wall, "The Church Well here," but it is now effaced.

It appears, from the peculiarly hollowed embankments near the Sterroid Well and at "Madge Pitts," that there was once a reservoir or fish-pond for the use of the inmates of the Castle.

From the MSS. of Joseph Hunter, historian of South Yorkshire, in the British Museum, is extracted the following: "I found in Thoresby's MSS., copied by him from Dr. Johnstone's collections, that 'an ancient lordship, parcel of the Honor of Pontefract, upon the hill, west of the church, was a famous house with great buildings; the ruins of a chapel, of a dungeon now there; a pigeon cote upon it.' The Manor House now, was formerly the Slaughter House. Here lived the great John of Gaunt, and had a bridge of stone over the deep cut way, that is, betwixt the Church and the Manor House, whereby his family might pass to the church. The plot of ground is yet to be seen where a chapel's foundation hath stood, and the two pillars of an arch standing in late memory; a man out of froward haste to destruction would needs dig it down, often affirming, he would either bring it down or it should bring him down ere night; which night so happened, for in the fall it crushed him all to pieces."

This Manor House seems to have fallen into decay during the Wars of the Roses. The following curious warrant from Henry VII. is preserved in the records of the Honor of Pontefract: "Henry, &c., to our trusty and well beloved the Steward of Pontefract.\* Whereas the manor of our lordship of Rothwell, called the Manor Garth, is in grete ruyine and defalt of reparacion in tymes past, to fall downe, and whereof as now wee have litel profit or none. And forasmuch as our trustye and wel-beloved Roger Hopton, Esq., gent., usher of our chamber, hath promised, and granted to re-edifie and build a certayne convenient houseing of less building more for our pleasir and hys ese within ye said Garthes, that he may have ye same Garthes to hym,

\* Sir Richard Tunstall, Knight.

hys heirs and assigns by copy of our corte, and after the custome of the mannor there. Wherefore wee wyl and require you, &c. Geaven at our palace first year of our rayne." Such was the reward of the family of the Hoptons for their no doubt faithful services to the cause of the Lancastrians, and for active exertions on the bloody field of Bosworth.\* It was certified to the king that Hopton had performed his promise, paying five shillings per year as an acknowledgment. This was done a few months after the Battle of Bosworth Field, in 1486.

It is very likely that the old portions of the present Manor House, belonging to Lord Stourton, and occupied by Mr. William Smith, farmer, is the very house built by the said Roger Hopton. The materials of the old ruinous building would be partly made use of in the rebuilding of the newer one; for morticed beams, shewing former use, are found in the interior of the present Manor House, and the old wall appears in the yard enclosure; also in a cart shed, near the Pasture Pit, is an oaken beam, the inner side of which is carved with conventional ornament; but no date can be discovered either upon it or in the house.

The present Manor House in its oldest parts is certainly an early specimen of domestic architecture, just emerging from the castellated style, as the very thick walls and small windows testify. Several of the old windows are blocked up, probably to avoid window tax, which was formerly enforced. Mr. T. Tew, in an interesting paper, says, "Before the year 1485, the commencement of the reign of Henry VII., domestic architecture in England can scarcely be said to have any existence. The mansions that had been erected were rather military than domestic. They were fortresses, not dwellings. . . . A period of internal peace introduced a new mode of living, and with it a new style of domestic architecture. Englishmen began to look for convenience rather than strength in their private mansions, and

\* Taylor.

elegance and social comfort began to be preferred to fortified security."

"This Manor continued entire in the crown, as the other parcels of the Duchy of Lancaster did for a long time; the remaining part unparcelled out, and the royalties, were sold in King James and King Charles the First's days. King James leased it for ninety-nine years to Sir Henry Hobart, and for the prince's use, and by his request, from Lady-Day last past (17 James I., Oct. 5, 1620), and the survivor's lessees, Sir John Walter, Sir John Fullerton, and by their indenture of assignment, 16 May, 4 Chas. I. (1628), by the nomination of the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of London, granted, bargained, sold, and assigned to William Williams, &c., Citizens of London. Amongst other things, all the Manor or Lordship of Rothwell, for the residue of the ninety-nine years, paying out to the King's Receiver £68 8s. 9d., at Mich. and Lady-Day. And the said William Williams, &c., by their ind. Dec. 8, 5 Chas. I. (1629), grant to Tho. Cudworth, of London, clothier, William Brooke, of Dodworth, and Wm. Marshall, of Chapel-Allerton . . . for the time to come of the said lease."\*

The outside walls of this Manor House are constructed of large black oak crosswise beams, and filled up with stones, rubble, and plaster. At one time it has been much larger, and the east wing extended nearly to the present wall. This part was pulled down, perhaps on account of decay and danger to the inmates, and was rebuilt by William Smith, with a brick addition, though not in the original form, more than a hundred years ago.

Before leaving this interesting building, it may be stated that there is a pewter tankard which has been preserved for many generations in the house, out of which it is affirmed the noted John of Gaunt drank. When in perfect condition it would hold about two quarts. It has a lid with

\* Dr. Johnstone's Collections.

hinge attached, which can be lifted up by the thumb. It is after the pattern of those silver pitchers used for warm spiced ale, and handed round at funerals. There used to be a set of round pewter plates and dishes to match.

### THE MARKET CROSS.

At the upper end of the village, and about the centre of the road, stands a new stone cross, surrounded with steps, dated 1864, no doubt marking the spot where the market used to be held. It is thought that this market was not a large one, but merely for the sale of farming produce, such as butter, eggs, poultry, and the like, but no one can remember when it was actually used as such.

It is known when Rothwell became a market town,\* but it seems impossible to ascertain when it ceased to be one.†

The old Cross, which is said to have had a canopy for protection from weather, became very dilapidated and the steps worn quite hollow. For many long years it had served not only for trading purposes but as a meeting place to discuss local and civil matters, and often as a preaching platform for people of all creeds, and for temperance harangues. In 1864 it was knocked down by accident. A subscription was immediately set on foot for its restoration in the present form, and in December of the same year the one now standing was erected, by Mr. Stainer, and is of Oulton stone. Though several persons would have been glad of its entire disappearance; yet others, reverencing olden times, felt that it was better to preserve a memorial of Rothwell when in a more thriving condition.

\* See page 39.

† In a List of Market Towns, printed in a book entitled the "Present State of Great Britain," and published in 1723, Rothwell is not included.

### MAY POLE HILL.

This part of the town at one time would certainly be very lively and busy. The wooden stocks, for the punishment of offences of swearing, gambling, drunkenness, and the like, especially during Church hours, were attached at one time to the Cross. The churchwardens being generally on the look-out for offending parties on Sunday mornings. The last time they were put into use (according to Mr. John Smith's account), was on a Sunday in 1801, "when three men were caught gambling in a field during Church hours, and were placed in them until service was over."

The May Pole was raised in this quarter, the socket in which it used to be inserted was even lately to be seen about seven feet from where Miss Hindle now lives (the higher storied house). "It was a long pole, fresh painted every year, red, white, and blue, with a pair of horns about half way up." The last time it was used was in 1802. To this day this part is called "May Pole Hill."\*

\* The custom of celebrating the arrival of the first of May may be traced to the Romans, who dedicated it to the worship of Flora, the goddess of flowers or spring. It was naturally a season of rejoicing after a dreary winter. Bourne says "that the juvenile part of both sexes were wont to rise a little after midnight and walk to some neighbouring wood, accompanied with music and the blowing of horns, where they break down branches of the trees and adorn them with nosegays and crowns of flowers. When this is done they return with their booty homewards, about the rising of the sun, and make their doors and windows to triumph in the flowery spoil. The after part of the day is chiefly spent in dancing round a tall shaft, which is called the May Pole, and is generally placed in a convenient part of the village, not far from the church. Formerly certain popular characters were represented, such as Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, Maid Marian, along with morris dancers and other fantastic masks and revellers." Often one of the most beautiful girls of the village was selected and decked out as "Queen of the May." In this we are reminded of the sweet and touching poem of Tennyson's "The May Queen." The revival of this pretty ancient usage is carried on at Otley every year, and is witnessed by thousands. The showy decorating of cart horses on the first of May originates from this custom.

In olden times this portion of the town would be more open and serve as the green, where all sorts of games and pastimes would be carried on, and where the fairs would be held in the vicinity of the church.\*

### THE OLD VICARAGE.

Another ruin is situated on the vicar's glebe-land, near the Holy Trinity Schools, marking the spot where the Old Vicarage once stood. The remnant of a fire-place alone remains. Everything seems to show that it ceased to be a vicarage house very many years ago. It appears very likely that the last resident vicar was the noted Kaye, of whose eventful life we have previously given some account.† According to tradition it was almost demolished by Cromwell's soldiers. From some old family papers belonging to Mrs. Ferguson, of Oulton, the following is extracted:—“Mary, Dr. of Thomas Walton, born ye 9th Day, and Bapd. the 11th Day, from Rothwell Vicarage, Jan. 1748–9.” In 1762 the Rev. Mr. Ralf Eden buried, the 20th day of January, from Rothwell Vicarage.‡ The subjoined are particulars of it, as remembered by the late old Mrs. Seanor § in her school days. “A day school, kept by Tommy Walton (the aforesaid), was held in two of the rooms, which were entered by large doors, wide enough for a gig to pass

\* Instances of some of the truth of this assertion may be given from two deeds of old property in this quarter. Mr. William Field mentions “messuage,” which means dwelling house, with garden, &c., attached; and Mr. George Greenwood's deed for the old property, just pulled down, at the corner of Church Lane Head, states that there used to be a “farm yard,” and dates about 200 years ago.

† Page 57.

‡ Registers. Also List of Curates.

§ Born in 1781, September 18th.

through, looking into Hindle's Yard.\* These doors had big brass nails inserted in them at intervals. The large windows were filled with diamond-shaped panes, the sloping ceiling beautifully carved, whilst the floor was paved with large diamond-shaped stone flags.”

The Glebe House was certified in 1818 to be unfit for residence, being an entire ruin with the exception of one room. Elizabeth Hey lived at the Vicarage, as tenant, in 1825. The last occupants were William and Elizabeth Claborough. In 1834 a return was made that there was no glebe house at all,† so that for the space of 200 years there seems to have been no resident *vicar* in Rothwell. Other vicars since Kay's time have lived at a distance, but the curates occupied part of some superior dwelling-house in the village, or had lodgings. This undesirable state of things is now altered. During the three years' interim betwixt the death of the Rev. John Bell and the appointment of the Rev. G. Heberden, a handsome and commodious Vicarage House has been built from the accumulated revenues of the church. It is pleasantly situated at the commencement of Woodlesford Lane.

### THE GAOL.

For upwards of a century and a-half Rothwell contained a Gaol for the imprisonment of debtors. It was discontinued 1st February, 1846, under statute 8th and 9th Vict., c. 72. The Gaol for the district was then transferred to Halifax. For this debtors' prison Rothwell became notorious, and “Rodill Jail,” as it was commonly called, was well known all over the county. On examination of the Church Registers memoranda of burials from the Gaol can

\* Entered by Mr. Hampson's shop.

† Lawton's Collections relative to the Diocese of York and Ripon, 1842.

be traced back to 1685. It may therefore reasonably be conjectured that the Gaol was established here soon after the passing of the first Insolvent Act, in 1649.

It was at first situated in the Main Street. The old and dilapidated buildings (built of stone, but afterwards plastered over) in which it was held are still standing, and the open space at the back connected with them is still called "Jail Fold." They are now the property of the Dickinson family, of Lofthouse Gate, near Wakefield, and are made into several cottages, but are of the poorest kind. In a few years they will be pulled down to make room for better and more suitable premises, and then another landmark of "Old Rothwell" will have been swept away.

As far back as the oldest living persons can remember the gaoler and coroner for the Honor of Pontefract was Mr. William Garrett, generally known by the name of "Captain Garrett."\* He had made several sea voyages, one of them to Constantinople, and for a short time was "captain" of a small vessel. He was one of the old school and dressed in a peculiar fashion. He wore a powdered wig and pig-tail, tight-fitting breeches, close-fitting top boots with a tassel at front, a pointed-lapped coat with large cuffs and brass buttons, the gentleman's costume of George III. He was succeeded in these offices by Mr. Christopher Jewison. Mr. Garrett retired, and lived in the large brick house now occupied by Mr. Braime, veterinary surgeon, at the commencement of Carlton Lane, where he died, on November 24th, 1819, aged 76 years.

Mr. Jewison was gaoler until the removal of the Jail from Rothwell. He retained the important office of coroner, and ably performed its duties for fifty-one years. He died March 5th, 1870, at the ripe age of 84, much lamented by all. In his life time he was highly respected for his kindness and geniality. He was a warm friend of the Mechanics' Institute in its early days. He had the poetic feeling, and

\* Richard Linnear was coroner in 1780.

wrote a great number of verses, exhibiting wit, humour, and sarcasm, the subjects often being village notabilities or curious circumstances then transpiring.

On one of the walls of the Old Gaol was discovered the following desponding verse, and its suitable response.

" This is a place of care,  
A grave for man alive,  
A touchstone for to try a friend,  
And in it none can thrive."

ANSWER.

" This is no place of care,  
No grave for man alive,  
It's a place to refine a fool,  
And teach him how to thrive."

The Gaol was removed from here and transferred to the former Poor House of the parish. "It was taken on a lease by the Duchy of Lancaster, about 1814, for the purpose of converting it into a debtors' prison for the Liberty of the Honor of Pontefract. This Liberty, situated in the West Riding, extends westward to the borders of Lancashire and Derbyshire; eastward to Goole; and northward to the parish of Thorne; and southward to that of Penistone. The present keeper (C. Jewison, Esq.) is coroner as well as bailiff over the Liberty. The Gaol consists of a brick building of two stories with an adjoining house for the keeper and a small lodge for a turnkey. The number of prisoners in 1836 was fourteen (*Parliamentary Gazetteer, 1843*)."  
At one time there were forty-six inmates.

Some curious customs were connected with the Gaol. When a prisoner was admitted a certain "nominy" was gone through.

The subjoined is what can be remembered of the entrance "ditty," usually given in a somewhat mournful strain.

Welcome, welcome, brother debtor,  
To this poor but merry place,  
Where no bailiff, "bum," or "setter,"  
Dare to show his frightful face.

But, kind sir, as you're a stranger,  
Down your garnish\* you must lay,  
Or your coat will be in danger,  
You must either strip or pay.

Ne'er repine at your confinement,  
From your children and your wife,  
Wisdom lies in true resignation  
Through the varied scenes of life.

What was it made Great Alexander  
Weep at his unhappy fate?  
It was because he could not wander  
Through this wide world—strong prison gate.

For every island is a prison  
Strongly guarded by the sea,  
Kings and princes for that reason  
Prisoners are as well as we.

A parting stanza, accompanied with music, was recited in a more lively manner by the prisoner when he had served his term and was let out; as follows:—

Come, come my lads,  
I bid you all farewell,  
How soon you will follow after  
I cannot rightly tell;  
But I hope the Lord  
He will you bless  
In health and wealth  
And long success  
To live in peace and happiness  
When you go home.

Mock trials and rough games were carried on and jokes played by the debtors; and they used to enjoy themselves in their own fashion: skittle playing, quoits, &c., were amongst the games. Beer drinking was freely indulged in, a good supply was taken every day, and considerable license to the prisoners was then allowed. Some of the

\* A half-crown was charged as entrance money, and spent in allowance amongst the inmates.

inmates, however, had more innocent employment and kept canaries by the score.

At ten o'clock the horn-blower perambulated the yard and announced bed-time for all the inmates.\*

We give a few burials from the Gaol, culled from the Registers:—

- 1685, 24 Dec. John Wyate, prisoner, died in ye Goale.
- 1687, 9 April. George Steel, buried out of Rothwell Gale.
- 1690, 23 Feb. John Rainor, buried Gale.†
- "    24      "    James Lindele, buried Gale.†
- "    25      "    Amos Hareland, buried Gale.†
- 1699, 16 Sept. Samuel Kirke, senior, buried, prisoner in Rothwell Gole.
- 1704, 20 Oct. Thomas Cummin, prisoner in ye Gale.
- 1710, Dorothy Holdsworth, widow of a prisoner in the Gaole, buried.
- 1711, ye 3rd Jany., Mrs. Eliz. Cooke, widdow, buried. Rothwell Gaole.
- 1759, 20 Nov. Daniel Parker, buried from Wriglesworth, and lately "*Keay Turner*" at Goal.‡

\* The interior and back-yard buildings exhibit many proofs of alterations, consisting of blocked-up windows, passages, and doorways. Over one stone archway is carved what appears to be the date of 1775, but part of it is somewhat indistinct on account of the decayed stone, probably the period of some alteration.

† Three deaths in three consecutive days seem rather strange. On reference to "Mayhall's Annals of Yorkshire," we find that in 1689 there had been a severe winter, a remarkably long frost, and that booths and sports were upon the river Aire. We meet also about this date (1697), and later, with several entries of the burials of children of Richard Idle, vicar.

‡ Other *turnkeys* were George Wadsworth, about 1830; James Rawling, sen., assisted by his son James, about 1837; Marmaduke Walker (once a prisoner in the Gaol), William Ely, John Whithead, afterwards his son and his mother remained to the close.

From deeds kindly shewn me by Mr. Turner, solicitor, I find that the Old Gaol Property was possessed by a Simpson, afterwards it got into the hands of Mr. Robert Blackburn, of Rothwell, who willed it to his son,

Some notable but unfortunate people were there incarcerated. Amongst the more recent ones *old John Stephenson*, a plumber from Meadow Lane. He was a very stout man and weighed eighteen stones, and possessed good natural abilities. For twenty years he was an inmate of the Gaol, and eventually died there. He seemed to prefer gaol life. He was bound for a loan, which he was unable to pay unless he made use of his wife's property. This he refused to do. At one time he was the only inmate, living by himself for five weeks. He was a month without fire in winter; and his food for one week cost only ninepence, viz., seven-penny-worth of milk and twopenny-worth of oatmeal. But he was not always so abstemious, for a 16-gallon barrel of ale was once subscribed for him, and he very soon drank it. He became a noted character on account of his long stay in the Gaol, and because he was well versed in its manners and customs. He was often consulted by persons who were getting into difficulties and who came to have a look at the Gaol, and ask his advice how to proceed previously to submitting themselves to its regulations. *Billy Hirst* was another prisoner. He was a noted Leeds cloth manufacturer. This gentleman, along with his brother, spent a large fortune in endeavouring to keep Leeds pre-eminent in the broad-cloth manufacture, and to enable it to compete with the West of England makers. Messrs. Hirst made broad black cloth at two guineas per yard, and some of it was worn by George IV. They tried many experiments with new machinery until their capital was exhausted. Bankruptcy fol-

Mr. Joseph Blackburn, attorney-at-law (and who was afterwards executed for forgery). This latter gentleman held it for twelve years, and it was sold to Mr. William Wilson, of Lofthouse, in 1799. Mr. Wilson afterwards granted a twenty-one years' lease of it to Mr. William Garrett. Mrs. Wilson, grandmother of Mr. Edmund Dickinson, of Lofthouse Gate, brought the purchase-money in a white apron, all in silver, which consisted of half-crowns. She was dressed in a short bed-gown and frilled cap, and came in that style all the way from Long Lofthouse to Rothwell. Mr. John Dickinson, their grandson, has lately become owner.

lowed, and the gaol was the result. It was thought at the time to be a disgrace to Leeds to allow Mr. Hirst to suffer in that way. Leeds is undoubtedly now reaping the benefit of this gentleman's labour and enterprise.\*

*Mr. Tipling*, corn miller, from Seacroft, and afterwards a noted auctioneer, at Leeds. *Van Hamburg*, silversmith, a well-educated Jew, whose debts were scheduled at £7000, for which he served a term of seven weeks. *Dr. Metcalf* and *Dr. Settle*, a rabbit fancier, were inmates. Once nine Primitive Methodists were imprisoned there—eight men and one woman—for pulling down a boundary wall belonging to a chapel. They were defendants in a case, but were unsuccessful, and rather than pay chose to be confined in the Gaol.

These last Goal buildings were afterwards made into two substantial residences, and named "Prospect House;" the

\* In 1825, 30th June, the merchants and manufacturers of Saddleworth gave a public dinner, with a silver cup of fifty guineas, to William Hirst, of Leeds, as a testimony of the high sense they entertained of his abilities and perseverance as a woollen manufacturer, and of their esteem for his frankness and liberality in communicating his improvements to the public. In 1832, when in Rothwell Gaol, Mr. Hirst published an appeal to his Yorkshire friends for pecuniary support, in which he says, "at the time I began the new system of manufacturing and finishing cloth I was not worth £500. The system itself enabled me in a short time to lay out, in mills and machinery, upwards of £80,000; and in 1824 I gave up business with a great income, and left all in the concern; but 1825 was the ruin of the concern. I thought I could save it, and in 1826 I mortgaged my property for that purpose; but the new tariff in America, in 1828, blasted all hope." He had to appear in the *Gazette*, and stated that his life had been one of struggle and disappointment since 1825. His fellow-townsman shortly after, in a public meeting, set on foot a subscription for his benefit. In 1837 it came to the ears of his majesty that Mr. Hirst was confined in the gaol for debt, and had been so for several years. His majesty forwarded to him a benefaction of £20. His fellow-townsman also raised another handsome subscription for him, amounting to £1308. Still Mr. Hirst felt himself an aggrieved man, which caused him often to abuse and misrepresent parties who would otherwise have assisted him. This "Father of the Yorkshire Woollen Trade," as William Hirst was considered, died 29th August, 1858, aged 82.—*Annals of Yorkshire*.

one part occupied by J. G. Turner, Esq., solicitor, and the other by Mr. James Clarke, professor of music, who, conjointly with his wife, have conducted here for many years a ladies' seminary and boarding school, but are just on the point of retiring and leaving Rothwell.

## THE POOR HOUSE.

There was a Workhouse in Rothwell as early as 1717, and perhaps earlier. It is said that the cottages down by the Church Well, and now occupied by Mrs. Ayre and others, were used for the purpose previous to the building of the larger one for the whole parish on the Marsh, in 1772.\*

It was the custom to farm out destitute and indigent people belonging to the parish to the care of certain persons, and the town authorities contributed towards their relief and maintenance.† This was before the Gilbert Act came into force, which insisted upon the overseers of townships providing for their own poor and proportioning rates to meet the requirements.

In the Churchwardens' Book is inserted the following "Mem.—In pursuance of a vestry, called on Sunday, ye 2nd day of April, 1738, to consult upon a better way of maintaining ye poor in ye parish of Rothwell, it was determined, on Sunday ye 9th following, to repair a proper place for a workhouse, to receive the poor, to be govern'd by a majority of ye parish for that purpose. The Trustees chose at ye same time for governing ye said workhouse are as

\* "June, 1772. This month Workhouse was begun to build, and the first stone laid upon Rothwell Marsh for the poor people (Registers)." "The Poor House, as an institution, did not make its appearance till the reign of Queen Anne."—*Fuller*.

† The recipients of workhouse fare, both male and female, were termed "pensioners." For instance, in the Church Registers we find, "1717, 23rd May, John Harrison, pensioner, buried."

follows: Rev. John Wise, Mr. James Burnill, Mr. William Wood, Mr. John Vavasour, Mr. Ricd. Keeling, Mr. Ricd. Waugh, Mr. George Kitching, Mr. Jonn. Craven, Mr. John Waugh. It is further agreed that ye above Trustees have power to raise the sum of fifty pounds, in order to repair, furnish, and provide proper materials for ye same." The overseers in 1731 were Jonathan Craven for Rothwell, Thomas Taylor for Oulton and Woodlesford, and Anthony Hutchinson for Carlton and Lofthouse; in 1732, William Grave, John Stansfield, Rodge Swift; in 1734, Richard Moor, William Stead, John Loakes, William Birkenshaw; in 1736, Mr. Waugh; in 1735, Francis Todd."

In 1814 the townships became divided, and preferred to have separate places for their own paupers, so the Marsh Poor House was given up as being too large for Rothwell only, and the two plastered cottages near the Cross, now occupied by Joshua Wormald and Annis Taylor, became the Workhouse. It was kept by Laurence Vevers and his wife,\* in 1800 and later.† The Woodlesford and Oulton Poor House was situated in Quarry Hill.‡ The one for Lofthouse and Carlton was at the building now used as the Lofthouse Post Office. Afterwards paupers were placed in the hands of the Carlton Corporation, near Otley.§

In 1832 George Wadsworth was assistant overseer; on the 16th March, 1837, Mr. William Medley Burton was

\* Laurence Vevers (he was a farmer, and held land under Mr. Close) died in 1806, aged 63; Elizabeth, his wife, died May 4th, 1823, aged 68. They had a son called William Vevers, a Wesleyan travelling preacher, in 1814.

† In 1783 William Thompson was master of the Rothwell Workhouse. There was a workhouse at Middleton in 1785.

‡ Was in a low cottage, now a little below the level of the road, and at one time kept by Thomas Chadwick. The Workhouse was discontinued some twenty-eight years ago and paupers conveyed to Wakefield.

§ Amongst those consigned to Carlton, near Otley, were Joe Higgins (deformed), Thomas Pybus, James Dodgson, all old men, and David Brittain, young and nearly blind, but this latter person soon returned to Rothwell.

elected to that office, at a salary of £25 per annum, and retained it until his death, 20th October, 1864. A week after Mr. William Price was appointed, and still holds the position. In 1836 Messrs. Allen Edmundson and George Allott were joint overseers. In 1840, 17th August, Mr. John Clarkson was appointed vestry clerk. He died suddenly, 11th October, 1864. Rothwell, Oulton, and Woodlesford Townships became attached to Hunslet Union in 1869.

### THE ALMS HOUSES.

The old thatched cottages, commonly known as the "Towns' Houses," are situated at the lower end of the Marsh. They consist of four dwellings, two of them front towards Royds Lane, looking up "Bunkers Hill," as it has been called, and the other two face the "Woggan." They are now unfit for habitation, and if not pulled down shortly will tumble down of themselves, being so thoroughly decayed and out of repair.

From time immemorial they have been devoted to the original intention of the donor or donors, viz., for the housing and sheltering of homeless poor widows or widowers of the Rothwell township. It is not likely that these cottages would have got into their present miserable state if there had not been difficulties in connection with them. They are understood to have been presented to the town by Henry Houson, Esq., receiving the property through his wife, who was a Birkenshaw, a family well disposed to the poor, as the list of charities show. Unfortunately the givers did not make provision for repairs, and moreover they are built on copyhold land, and consequently the lord of the manor claims his fine or acknowledgment. This fine, which lately amounted to £9, has been paid by Mr Smith, one of the overseers, along with Mr. John Idle, and Mr. Thomas Oliver, being admitted tenants of the property, the first

gentleman hoping to be reimbursed by charging a small fee as rent.

The title being therefore not clear, it will have to be searched for in the Court Roll of the Manor. Rothwell, however, has become connected with Hunslet Union, and the authorities there repudiate any claim being made upon them for repairs, and affirm that it is not legal to support other or separate poor houses when the poor are provided for by the Union.

This old property is about to be offered for sale, but no hindrance will be put in the way of the purchaser on account of the title, as so many years have elapsed that no dispute in regard to the right is anticipated.

### OLD HOUSES.

There exist in Rothwell several large and capacious houses, some of which had land in connection with them. These houses were chiefly occupied by well-to-do farmers, yeomen, lawyers, or retired gentry. We will notice what appear to be the oldest. Before doing so, it may be remarked that most of these houses are now divided and turned into cottage dwellings to meet the requirements of the times.

The house tenanted by Mr. Henry Kirkby, tailor, in the Main Street, is almost unique in its internal decoration, the only one of a like character is the Old Manor House, called Carlton Hall, occupied by Mr. Thomas Oliver, farmer. The exterior of Kirkby's house is oak timbered and plastered over. The interior has an ornamental plaster ceiling and is panelled in string-ribbed moulding all over. The panels are alternately square and connected with those of quadrant corners. In each panel is carved conventional representations, alternately of grapes and leaves, and lilies and acorns with leaves. In the spaces betwixt the panels is the fleur-

de-lis. A border runs round the ceiling with the egg or bead pattern, placed alternately horizontally and perpendicularly. There are also capitals with pilasters remaining. The interior is partly wainscoted with black oak, but now covered with paper. In a small back parlour is a shield portrayed on the ceiling surrounded by a lozenge-shaped\* border, containing the figures of griffins on each side of a vase. The shield is divided into quarterings, and subdivided in the dexter chief and sinister base. On the dexter chief is drawn the profile Scotch lion rampant, enclosed within a square, double bordered. On the dexter base three English lions passant and three fleur-de-lis alternately. Sinister chief the same. On sinister base the Irish harp. It is no doubt a royal shield of the Stuarts, dating from James I. to Charles II., 1603-1685, for it contains the arms of England, Scotland, Ireland, and France.

From all appearance this little room has served as a private oratory for prayer. The floors are of stone, diamond flagged. This house was once occupied by a Mr. Buckley, an attorney, and afterwards by Mr. Field, an attorney.

The ceiling of the room in Carlton Hall is not so elaborate as the one at Rothwell. In the centre is a shield of Queen Elizabeth, with the letters E. R., and is enclosed within a garter, with the well-known motto, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*" At intervals there are ornamental figures, and the beam has a running pattern upon it.†

The old Post and Panel House, at the commencement of Oulton, has a picturesque appearance, and adds to the interest of the pretty village of Oulton. At the outside, on a cross beam of a gable, is very legibly carved the name EDRVS TAILOR, T. I.T 1611, APR. 10. There is nothing remark-

\* Except in the case of royal shields the lozenge enclosure denotes the armorial insignia of ladies.

† In 1836 one end of Carlton Hall was pulled down and the present new part put in. The old building was nearly all wood.

able in the interior. On a glass pane in the lower room is "*Edrus Taylor et Isabella Uxor, eius hoc facerunt, r-b-u-s 1611.*" Painted on a lozenge pane of glass is a shield with part of a pointed cross. William Metcalf, Quaker, once lived in this house.

At Rothwell there was formerly a mansion called "White Hall," in the field now used for the flower show. Some trees now standing were about the entrance to the grounds. The house was large, containing sixteen rooms, and occupied by a Mr. Moore.

At Woodlesford, standing back from the road, nearly opposite "Stockings' Lane," is a plastered house, with a small stone let in, I. C. (John Collin), 1636.

In 1690 John Westerman built a house in Westgate, Lofthouse.

At Royds Green, turning down to Mr. Sanderson's, is a brick house, with a stone over the door, inscribed "John Walshaw, anno domini 1743."

Less than a hundred years ago Rothwell was in a much smaller compass than at present. The bulk of its buildings then were congregated in the principal street through which the old road from Pontefract passed. Where old thatched houses (so common at one time) have tumbled down, or been taken down on account of danger, others of a more modern and convenient construction have been erected in their place, chiefly of brick. Of course a few isolated houses would be elsewhere, but not in a continuous line as they now are; therefore it naturally follows that most of the notable houses still remaining are to the front of the old thoroughfare. Those which have not been alluded to, or only incidentally, we will more particularly, though briefly, notice as we meet with them on our route from the east to the west, beginning at the Oulton end up to those near to the Mill-dam.

The plain stone house with the gabled awning over the door-way, now occupied by Mr. Sherman, was once the farm-

stead of Mr. James Moor; afterwards John North, a farmer's man, formerly in his employ, had it left to him by the Moores. He lived in it, and his son, Mr. Joseph North, now of Carlton, was born there. At one time Caleb Copley, sen., a hat maker, resided in it.\*

The thatched cottage opposite, of somewhat gloomy aspect, once it is said belonged to the old Charity School, but in some way an exchange was made. It was, in 1830, occupied by Joseph Gibson, basket maker, and singer at church. Recently it was the dwelling place of old John Smith, who was accustomed to subscribe himself the "Old Man under the Thatch," in his contributions to the *Rothwell Times*. It formerly belonged to the aforesaid James Moor.

The large, many-windowed house on the left, now in the occupation of Messrs. Barkers, painters, was built by Henry Houson, Esq., a wealthy yeoman, for his own residence, about 150 years since. His son, Mr. William Houson, also lived in it. One of the family had a tan yard at the back. Mr. Henry Houson also built the large house or hall (after the same style) near the Mill-dam; it was occupied by Mr. Joseph Houson, sen., known as "Squire" Houson. It has connected with it cottage dwellings and farm buildings. The front house before mentioned has been for many years the dwelling of Joseph Westmorland, one of our oldest miners, and one of the first Primitive Methodists. His wife Esther is the well-known, useful, and shrewd midwife.

In the brick house, now occupied by Mr. William Brown, lived, about 1790, Mr. Thomas Flockton, attorney. He had the notorious "Ward" poisoning case under hand.

On the opposite side, where there is now a low blank wall, was a few years since a lot of thatched cottages, with steps up, but they were pulled down as unfit for residence. In one of them lived "Johnny Horner," a well-known, cheerful kind of man, who was once a worker at the cloth factory, and for many years common carrier to Leeds. He

\* He died in 1820, aged 65.

delighted to tell of old times, and to speak of the busy days of cloth weaving in the village.

The Porched House, higher up, on the right hand side, with large back farm yard, now in the occupancy of William Wright, has of late years deteriorated in appearance. It was once occupied by Mr. James Moor, overseer, his own property, and several others adjoining, and afterwards by some of the Walton family, once notable in their day as holding official positions in the town, but the name as regards Rothwell is extinct.

The plastered and colour-washed low buildings, jutting out in rather an ugly form, and now tenanted by Mr. George Blakley, once belonged to a Tommy Slater, who kept a shop there, and had carts and horses. He was a fervent Primitive Methodist and a man of parsimonious habits; afterwards he removed to Baildon, but was buried at Rothwell. He died May 19th, 1826, aged 52 years. The shop was taken by a Mr. James North, who was assisted by his two daughters. They kept a school and were also Sunday-school teachers. This property and that at the back, extending to the Marsh, came into the hands of the Mitchell family, of Ossett. The handsome stone mansion on the Marsh, occupied by Dr. Heaps, was built for the residence of Seth Mitchell, Esq., M.D., in 1828; afterwards the late Mr. Abraham Howarth bought the shop and cottages. His son-in-law, Mr. Z. Barraclough, is the present owner.

The next block of buildings belong to John Holmes, Esq., of Methley. They are very striking and attractive and are certainly an ornament to the street. The style is of the Gothic and Tudor period, with ornamented gables and carved stone work. They consist of large and excellent shops (town-like in proportions) and several good cottages. Up to twenty years ago these premises were quite different and presented a quaint aspect. They had been for generations the family residence of the Keelings and the

Smithsons, wealthy people, large land owners of the district, and extensive farmers, several of whom were successively stewards for the Irwin and Ingram families, of Temple Newsam, who then possessed much land in this neighbourhood.

In 1738 Richard Keeling was overseer, and held several other offices of trust in the town, and was a solicitor. His daughter Anne became allied in marriage to the ancient and respectable family of the Pyemonts, of Lofthouse, whose pedigree reaches far back, and who resided a great number of years at Lofthouse, near Wakefield. Their coat-of-arms is arg. on a chev. gules, three clusters of grapes slipped or, between as many pickaxes sable. *Crest*, a knight in armour praying on a mount. Mr. Richard Keeling also had an only son, Samuel, a bachelor, and another daughter, Elizabeth. His son succeeded him, and carried on his father's profession. He was born in 1716, and died June 20th, 1789, aged 73 years. Elizabeth, unmarried, survived her brother thirteen years, being born in 1728, and died 6th July, 1802. He was succeeded by his nephew, Samuel Smithson, also a bachelor, and who was steward for Lady Ingram, and a solicitor. He and his sister, a maiden lady, named Elizabeth, occupied the whole of the building; the back part and the gable end, the only old part now visible at the front,\* was employed as his offices. Mr. Josiah Smithson, son of Joseph Smithson, brother of the two former, when a youth was articled to his uncle; but Mr. Samuel Smithson died shortly after, 4th July, 1801, aged 51 years, and Josiah finished his studies with Mr. Taylor, Recorder of Pontefract, whose daughter he eventually married. Previously the house of Smithsons had undergone considerable alterations for the convenience of Mr. Josiah, who was the favourite nephew and prospective heir; but he did not occupy it much after his marriage. Miss Smith-

\* Lately occupied by old William Gill. Mr. Holmes has just put in a good shop window corresponding with the characteristic style of the buildings.

son then considered the house too large for her requirements, she accordingly let off one portion to respectable people, curates in charge, &c., and lived herself at the other end, near the said offices, which were then mere lumber rooms, but in a few years were made into a dwelling-house, with door to the front,—formerly it had been entered at the side. Miss Elizabeth Smithson was occasionally visited by members of the families of the Pyemonts and the Amblers. She died February 21st, 1834, aged 78, and was buried at Rothwell, on the south side, near the church, where the family graves are placed.

At the back, in Smithson's time, when all was in a state of prosperity and everything in full swing, there was a large farm yard with out-buildings, stables, lairs and sheep pens, the animals being brought here in stormy weather. About fifty-five years ago large lairs were situated where Baines's stone cottages on the Marsh now are; still called Smithson's Row, in fact the Smithson property extended to nearly the old Workhouse, some of the streets about there are still named in deeds "Little Smithson Street" and "Great Smithson Street." There was also connected with the property a large carriage drive leading out of the Marsh, and an extensive kitchen garden where the Primitive Methodist Chapel, school-house, &c., now stand. The building at the back was covered thickly with well trained ivy, and cultivated grape trees grew up the wall side, and there was a nice grass plat in front of the kitchens and offices. At the front, in the recess, about the middle, were petty flower-beds carefully laid out, and flowering trees. It was palisaded and had a flagged walk up to the front door. Mr. Joseph Smithson (mentioned before), formerly a woolstapler in Edinburgh, married a Scotch lady, named Henrietta Henderson, came and resided near his relatives at the house, now used as the co-operative stores. He had also a son, Sam, who, when a young man, joined Mungo Park in his African exploring expedition. He sent several letters to his relations,

recounting his adventures, how he was fearfully mutilated in the arm by the attack of some wild beast, and lay as dead, but was in time brought round. He afterwards fell a victim to the yellow fever. Mr Joseph Smithson died at Rothwell, October 15, 1825, aged 77.

Mr. James Young, long a villager, barber, and small grocer in the old shop up steps, now the property of Mr. Newsome, grocer, Butcher Lane corner, next got possession of the main of the estate as far as the Marsh, but he did not much disturb the original appearance and order of things. He branched out. He carried on several trades and did nearly all the business of the district. At the front he made the east end into a draper's shop, but the bow window, formerly Smithson's dining-room window, was allowed to remain, connected with the grocer's shop. He continued the shaving business, and added to it rope and twine manufacturing. He manufactured his own gas (being the first to introduce it into Rothwell) and supplied a few other consumers. He took great pride in keeping the gardening part well, and the whole in good condition. One part of the house was occupied by Mr. Thomas Young, his son, who managed the rope business. Mr. Young was a leading man amongst the Wesleyans, and entertained the preachers in his capacious and beautiful residence. He, however, got into difficulties, speculated in the coal-sinking business in Royds Lane, along with a John Westmorland, and had other leakages. He was obliged to mortgage the property to the Leeds Banking Company, his chief creditors, and finished his career a few years since in poor circumstances as a barber. The Throp family had a strip of land nearest Mitchell's, used as a band walk, and where also they built cottages afterwards purchased by Mr Holmes.

Mr. Holmes bought this estate about 1854, chiefly with a view of increasing his business facilities. He shortly turned the space into more profitable use; in 1855-6 he filled up the recess at the front with the present cottages, and put a new

gable end in with large drapery shop window and entrance. The wood-work done by Mr. Whitaker, of Woodlesford, and the stone-work by the Drury family, masons and architects. Increased trade necessitated further room. The part then standing back was built up, and brought in a line with the other, and the present beautiful stone frontage added. It is rather fantastically formed, graduating in castellated steps, and surmounted with a beehive, from which the buildings derive their present designation. The date of its erection, 1872, and monogram of the owner, is carved on a conventional shield. The carving over the windows of fruit and leaves is well executed, done by Mr. Throp, of Leeds, a rising artist. The stone-work was built by Chapman and Sons, and the wood-work done by Mr. Geo. Lockwood. The older portions at the back have thick substantial walls, and some rooms have mud or concrete floors. The Old Lairs were rented by Mr. Seanor as a match factory. This lot were burnt down by accident in October, 1867, and in their place a row of good brick houses have been erected by Mr. Holmes. Other buildings have followed from time to time, and more are in prospect, so that in time there will be a compact lot of property on the ground. It must be added that Mr. Holmes continued to make gas for his own use and for others a short while, but, on the establishment of gas works in 1856 to supply the village and district, he gave up at the wish of the Directors on certain conditions, and the plant was sold. He also allowed a public road from the main street to the Marsh to pass through his property.

The large old coloured house standing back opposite, occupied by Mrs. Dobson, is the property of Hon. Mrs. Meynell Ingram. It has connected with it croft and gardens. Once a foot-road passed through here called "Sayvel Croft" to the Church Field. In its early days vine trees and grapes grew up the front. It has been tenanted by James North, probably his birthplace, in 1725. He was a farmer and Wesleyan local preacher. "He died at Wakefield, April 25th,

1799, after having faithfully preached the Gospel of Christ for fifty years. Mr. North's ministerial abilities, both in prayer and preaching, were considerable, and he did not spare himself. He travelled far and near, found his own horse, and paid his own turnpikes. Hearing that his daughter was coming from Sheffield to see them, he intended to give her the meeting at his son's house in Wakefield,\* but it appears died before her arrival. His gravestone is at the north-east end of Rothwell Churchyard.

Jonas Smith, skinner, lived in it. He carried on this business, and his son, John, down by the Church Well. Jonas was appointed skin examiner at the Leather Market, Leeds. He was the brother of Thomas Smith, tanner, of Ouzlewell Green. Mr. George Dobson, maltster (had the kiln up Hindle's Yard), butcher and farmer, long occupied it.

Nearly opposite, the premises occupied by Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Charles Ward, grocer, and Mr. Hampson, shoemaker, were, about 1780, the property of Mr. Henry Close, a large farmer and a true Churchman. He was the first to have a kind of carriage in Rothwell, named "Bumby Whisky." The cellar in connection with Mr. Ward's house is partly excavated out of the rock, and a spring of water constantly gushes out at the side near the steps. The roof is vaulted, and consists of a series of compartments, appearing like a crypt on a small scale. The nooks, corners, and rooms of the place, both in the higher and lower stories, are curious and queerly contrived; but the interior division of the mansion (showing signs of wealth in its ceilings, &c.) into smaller dwellings may account for certain windows, blocked-up doors, and the peculiar shapes of the rooms. Afterwards this property was possessed by the Hindles (hence the name of the yard). It became heavily mortgaged, and is in the hands of a solicitor of Wakefield.

In the house, now partly a shop, belonging to Squire Marshall, in 1796, lived "Tommy Storey," the village glazier;

\* Methodist Magazine, 1800.

he afterwards removed into Butcher Lane, and lived in the house occupied by William Gibson. Within memory it had at front low pillars and chains, and entered at the side. Sixty or seventy years ago this lane was almost houseless, and even later. Seven can be remembered as all that were in it. They were mainly low thatched cottages, little better than hovels. The principal house was the old brick one next to the chapel, which, from its style of moulding, may be dated 100 years old at least. It was occupied, it is said, by Mr. Flockton, attorney, already mentioned, and who had his offices here; afterwards by old Jonas Benton, who had many practical jokes played upon him by the young sparks of the village. In Butcher Lane, before Stephen Wilkinson, sen., built the front part up to the present causeway, was an old thatched cottage with small *garden* plot at front, once the dwelling and workshop of old Robert Waterton, cordwainer. The better-looking house opposite, with dressed-stone front, was built about forty years ago by Mr. William Medley Burton for his residence. At the time he was principal glazier of the village, and rate collector, &c., he was highly respected. Very old buildings are in the back-yard. The lane itself was planted on one side with trees, and entered at Carlton Lane end by a gate and swing stile.

The apparently incomplete brick house, with mouldings and projections, in the main street, now belonging to Mr. Major Sheldon, was once the residence of Dr. Poskett, a small practitioner; Robert Naylor, Wm. Clarkson, Richard Seanor, and John Flockton, were successively occupants.

The large stone house, belonging to Mrs. Squires, at the conjunction of the Carlton road and Butcher Lane, was the dwelling-place of Mr. Harrison, chandler; afterwards of Dr. Hindle, and the birth-place of some of his children. Mr. Gillglass, lawyer, lived in it, he was a teacher at the Sunday school; not many years since Mr. John Kendrew was resident. He was a prominent man amongst the Primitive Methodists, and coal-merchant, but was accustomed to

go about shooting, and in getting over a stile the trigger of the gun went off and the contents of the barrel lodged in his body, which proved fatal.

The foregoing particulars may not prove complete in many instances, but they are all that are available at present, and the space at disposal will not allow of further extension.

### THE CHARITY SCHOOL.

In 1722 John Bromley, gentleman, of Wakefield, who possessed land and property in Rothwell,\* founded and endowed the above school.

The premises are situated nearly opposite the Black Bull. Of late years the old plastered building has been smartened up, the large school room connected with it turned into a cabinet show and workshop, and the other part used as an ordinary cottage dwelling, the tenant being under Mr. Calverley, of Oulton.

It is understood that the object of this foundation was to educate eight or twelve boys of the parish, previously to being bound apprentices to some trade. It is said that a free presentation to Cambridge (but now claimed by the Wakefield Grammar School) was also one of its privileges. For the benefit of the appointed master, this school had connected with it a dwelling-house, and garden 19p., and a garth 11. and 18p.,† and for further support it is understood there was the rental of a close in Royds Green, and one in Spiby Row.

For 145 years it seems that the intentions of the devizee

\* In the Governors' Will Book of the Wakefield old Grammar School, occur these items : 1722, John Bromley, gentleman, by will, messuage, and croft, Rothwell, and £20 a year with gifts to curate, and for apprentices and needy housekeepers. The will is dated 3rd January, 1722.

† See a survey of Rothwell by Henry Teale, in 1825.

have been more or less carried out. Several men now living remember to have received their early education at this old school. Mr. Walker was the last known charity school-master, and acted in this capacity until his death in 1869.

In 1738 it appears that it was also used as the public school for the parish, and supplemental subscriptions were raised for this purpose. In the overseers' accounts is this memorandum, "That the trustees were chosen for the government of the Subscription Charity School by the majority of the subscribers, met at the vestry called together this day May 14th, 1738, and are as follows for the year ensuing :—John Wise, curate, Samuel Disney, clerk; Met. Procktor, Esq., Mr. James Burnill, Mr. Robert Wood, William Houson, Mr. John Vavasour, jun." The trustees, in 1840, were Henry Blayds, Joseph Smith, of Rothwell Haigh, John Blayds, Joseph Houson (all deceased).

One of the first masters was a Mr. Willcock. The register of his burial is as follows :—"Thomas Willcock, schoolmaster, buried the 29th June, 1762, from Rothwell Charity Schoole, aged 65 years." It is traditionally reported that he was a precise man, full of wise counsel, and that he endeavoured to inculcate orderly habits and proper respect to superiors in social position.\*

In 1793, for the better maintenance of this school, an allotment from the Rothwell Haigh Enclosure was awarded to it.†

\* It might naturally be supposed, according to the following entry in the Burial Registers, that William Bilsborough would be the next master connected with this school ; but seeing that it is not specified as "charity" school, his name is omitted from this list. "William Bilsborough, schoolmaster, ye 16th Oct., 1774, from Rothwell."

† Copied from the award are these particulars of the situation of the land. "We (the Commissioners) do set out and allot and award unto the trustees of *Rothwell Free School*, and to their successors, as trustees for the said school for the time being, one acre, one rood, and fifteen perches of land, parcel of the said Haigh, bounded by 'Gravel Pit Road' and Howl Gutter Road, on or towards the east, and by lands herein awarded to

*Richard Tennant* at one time occupied the School House and adjoining land,\* and there are reasons to believe that he was master. It is remembered by old Mrs. Houson that, when a girl some eight or nine years of age, about the year 1799, Mr. Tennant kept a school at Carlton, up the hill opposite the "Unicorn," which she attended, coming from Ouzelwell Green. This Mr. Tennant was kind to children, and was a superior man and respected. Afterwards he seems to have taken charge of the Rothwell school for apparently a short time.†

The schoolmasters about this time were generally retired tradesmen or worn-out working men. They were often half educated and occasionally somewhat eccentric in their manners. The scholars were not slow to perceive this, and often took advantage, speaking of them and acting towards them very familiarly. About 1800 *John Coe*, commonly called "Jacky Coe," was master. The children used to say to him, when tired of school confinement,—

" Jacky Coe, Jacky Coe,  
Hold up your hand  
And let us go."

Alluding to the peculiar manner in which he waved his hand when dismissing the scholars. He was an ill-tempered man and made frequent use of the ruler and the ferule. He

Thomas Hardacre, on or towards the south, by an ancient inclosure of, and lands herein awarded to the said Elizabeth Moore, on or towards the west and north. And we do direct and award that the said trustees for the time being shall make and maintain sufficient fences and ditches on the east side of the north end of this allotment; and we declare the same to be copyhold in the Township of Rothwell." This school paid a Land Tax of 8d., according to its acreage.

\* Richard Tennant's name does not appear in the Registers, we find, however, amongst Burials, "1796, 19th July, Mary, wife of Richard Tenent, from Carlton." Perhaps he did not finish his course at Rothwell. Taken from a survey in 1825, before alluded to.

† About sixty or seventy years ago a Richard Stothard kept school in Butcher Lane.

died November 10th, 1816, aged 58 years, and was buried at Rothwell.

Next followed Thomas Bilsborough. He was formerly a pot painter, at Castleford. He was a bachelor, and for some time before taking charge of the Free School he taught children in a house up a yard past the Cross; and his sister, Fanny Bilsborough,\* had a "Lace School" in one of the rooms. He was a useful teacher in the Sunday School also; and on the separation of the Wesleyans from the Church he went along with the former, and became one of their prominent teachers. He seems to have retired from the mastership of the Charity Day School some years before his death, for we find that he became paralytic, causing him to have a paddling gait and to be slow of locomotion. He died about 1834.

The subsequent masters who occupied this property were James Rogerson and William Walker. In 1832 the National School near the church was started, and with few exceptions the master of the Free School became manager of the newer one, but dwelt at the Old School House. The continued account, therefore, of general day-school education in the village is merged into the history of the subsequent National Schools, to which the reader is referred.

After Mr. Rogerson's death, in 1840, his wife continued to teach a few scholars at the old place. These premises were then getting into a poor state, in fact became untenanted, and being built on copyhold land, and the fines consequent upon this tenure not being paid, Mr. Blayds, as Lord of the Manor, repaired them, which cost him about £60, so that they became virtually mortgaged to him. It is understood that he was partly repaid from the rental of land accruing to the school. The last intention, however, concerning the old property, may be gathered from the following notice lately posted on the church porch door.

"Charity Commission in the matter of the Endowed

\* Frances Bilsborough died June 10th, 1827, aged 64 years.

School of John Bromley, in the Parish of Rothwell, in the County of York, and in the matter of the Charity Trusts Acts 1853–1869.

“By direction of the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, Notice is hereby given, that an order is proposed to be made by them, after the expiration of one calendar month, to be computed from the first publication of this notice.

“1st, Appointing Trustees of the above-mentioned Charity; 2nd, Vesting the legal estate, in the real property belonging thereto, in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands; and 3rd, Establishing a scheme for the future regulation of the said Charity.

“It is proposed by the said scheme, that the Trustees shall be at liberty to effect a sale of the Old School Buildings, at Rothwell, for the sum of not less than £250, and to apply the proceeds of such sale towards the enlargement of the National School, founded by the Deed dated the 31st day of August, 1863; subject to the condition that the said last-mentioned schools shall continue to be conducted as a Public Elementary School, in accordance with the provisions of the 7th section of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.

“Any objections to the proposed order, or suggestions for its modification, may be transmitted, in writing, to the secretary of the said Commissioners, Whitehall, London, within twenty-one days next after the first publication of this notice.

“Dated the 28th day of May, 1877.

“HENRY MCNIELIE,  
“Secretary.”\*

\* A further notice, dated 11th July, 1877, states that the proposed trustees are the Rev. George Heberden, vicar of Rothwell; Edmund Calverley, Esq., of Oulton, Leeds; Thomas William Jewison, Esq.; John Gillgrass Turner, Esq.; and John Brown, Esq.; and that the income of the charity, from rent of land in Rothwell Haigh, is to be applied by the trustees for

Some of the schoolmasters in the parish were as follows:

- In 1715, John Pickard, Rothwell.
- „ 1736, John Cockill, Lofthouse.
- „ 1750, John Webster, Lofthouse.
- „ 1750, Arundall Griffith, Middleton.
- „ 1760, William Boocock, Carleton.
- „ 1760, William Wrigglesworth, Oulton.

### SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

About ninety years ago an unsectarian Sunday school was held at the Poor House on the Marsh, the latter kept by Mr. and Mrs. Galleway. The superintendents were Mr. Henry Close, vicar's churchwarden, and Mr. Joseph Boyle, organist. At this school were taught the rudiments of learning, such as reading and writing. The scholars were taken to the church: they were formed into a procession, and came in a straight line direct into the Marsh down a coach-road entered by a gate, near where the Mechanics' Institute now stands. The Marsh was then little better than a common, where geese, donkeys, and other animals grazed, and it had several ponds of water. The scholars generally sang, “We're marching through Emanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high,” &c. The direction taken was down to the bottom of the Marsh (Butcher Lane being then almost impassable), round the corner, and up the Main Street. The girls, both great and small, in dirty weather wore pattens, and even Mr. Close, a particularly clean gentleman, always had a pair on, with very large high rings. The roads were merely paved with boulder stones and not

the promotion of the education of the children of the poor inhabitants of Rothwell, by giving prizes or rewards for regularity of attendance at a public elementary school, and for good conduct and proficiency, and enabling them to become monitors or pupil teachers, or, where practicable, in obtaining prolonged or higher education.

flagged on each side, and were often bad to walk upon. One can almost imagine the clatter caused by the number of patterned feet.

When Mr. Muncaster was head of affairs he strongly objected to secular teaching on the Sabbath, and commenced a class for that purpose, on Saturday evenings, at the Old Charity Day School, which was well attended by the factory workers. Soon after this he used it for a Sunday school; and it continued here until Mr. Wardle took charge of the parish, about 1820. Part of the Sunday-school scholars had continued to go to the Poor House. However, in 1814, the Poor House was converted into the Gaol, and in the same year a Sunday school (still undenominational) was built in Church Field for the poor children of the township, which included Rothwell, Rothwell Haigh, and Royds Green. The stone for it was given by Mr. William Fenton, of Rothwell Haigh, out of his own quarry; and the ground by Mr. William Smith, maltster, uncle to the present occupier of the Manor House; and the labour paid for by the overseers of the township.

The Methodist scholars accustomed to attend the Poor House now came to this. Thomas Bilsborough and Joseph Beck were the head teachers.

Mr. Wardle, however, claimed a right to this school; and, in order to consider the question of right, a meeting was called. The result was that the Wesleyans gave way, and an exchange was made. Formerly all the scholars had gone on Sundays alternately to Church and Chapel, and up-grown people as well, there being no sectarian feeling exhibited. The Wesleyans now were allowed quietly to use the Old School; and the Church Field School became virtually the *Church* Sunday School. This latter was conducted by Mr. William Medley Burton, Mr. Harrison, and others. The superintendents and teachers amongst the Dissenters were Benjamin Lancaster, Aaron Copley, William North, John Burton, James Young, and

others. This school was permitted to them by the vicar; but not caring to be any longer so obligated, and being dissatisfied with its poor accommodation, they commenced to gather subscriptions towards a more suitable place, and to be entirely under Wesleyan control. In a short time they were enabled to do this: two cottages were purchased on the Marsh, pulled down, and in 1834, encouraged by the Rev. James Wilson, then resident Wesleyan minister, built a Wesleyan Methodist school on copyhold land. A stone was placed over the doorway with the incorrect Latin inscription: "*Auspicium melioris ævi*" (auspicious of a better age), written by the above reverend gentleman. This slab was put up by Vincent Hardwick, but not being properly secured with clamps, several years afterwards fell down and lamed a Miss Townsley, of Carlton, then a day scholar in Mr. Simpson's time. It was put up again more securely, and still remains.

This school answered until 1872. It, however, proved too small for the increasing number of Sunday scholars; and being often inconvenient to take them to chapel (a short distance) in wet weather, it became imperative to build a more commodious one nearer the chapel. The trustees were fortunate in securing land at the right time behind the chapel. It was bought, on May 31st, 1866, for £40, of Mr. William Smith. The foundation-stone was laid by J. Wilson, Esq., of Wakefield, on September 9th, 1872, the cost of the building being about £700; this, by subscriptions, sale of old school (bought by Mr. Goldthorpe, nail-maker), and by other extraordinary efforts, was completely met, and the excellent and comfortable school neatly fit up and out of debt proves a valuable addition to the chapel estate. It is also useful for society meetings, concerts, and lectures. In the Wesleyan Sunday school, in 1876, the number of scholars on the books were 270; in 1877, 255. Average morning attendance, 115; afternoon, 170. Teachers (male and female), 58. The library contains about 415

volumes, consisting of religious and theological works, Christian biography, travels, &c. For the last few years the prominent superintendents have been Messrs. J. R. Seanor, George Armitage, and Joseph Morton; the secretaries, Mr. A. Marshall and Mr. Walter Batty, the present secretary.

### THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

The Church people found in a few years that the premises in Church Field were too small. Hitherto they had been employed, in accordance with the original object, as a "Sunday School for the Township." The vicar, along with others, wished to increase their size and to add a storey to them, so that they might be used as a National Day School. The overseers at that time objected, affirming that they were not erected with such an intention.

After the erection of Oulton Church, in 1827, Mr. Blayds's coach-house, near the Rothwell church, had been little used, and as the situation was desirable, it was enlarged and converted into a school, and when completed, in 1832, was named the "National School."\* It was a great improvement in size and out-door space to the Old Charity School at the bottom of the town, possessing a good playground. It was divided into two partitions, the right for the girls and the left for boys. In the centre, under the separating archway was placed, on an elevated platform, the master's desk. Betwixt the girls' school and the church wall was the newer Hearse House.

The first master of the new National School was *Benjamin Ellis*, who came from London. He was married, and

\* This has lately been levelled to the ground and a low wall built at front after being in a dilapidated condition for several years. When in condition it was occasionally used, by permission of the vicar, Mr. Bell, for lectures, and entertainments by the committee of the Mechanics' Institute, and it was rented by the Temperance Society for their meetings.

his wife taught the girls. He was fond of the sport of shooting small birds in his leisure hours. He lived near Mrs. Nichols's, up the step by the church; but he resigned, and left the district within a year. *Richard Dennis*, who married a daughter of Mr. George Dobson, farmer and butcher, of this town, along with Mrs. Steel, the miller's wife, conducted the school up to 1837. He attended the Wesleyan Chapel. He also resigned, and got a situation as book-keeper in the neighbourhood. *James Rogerson*, formerly a scholar in this school, was engaged. He came from Middleton. Though clever and successful in "bringing the lads on," he was cruel, and used far too much physical punishment. In one notorious instance permanent damage was done to an offending scholar by a severe stroke of the ferule over his thumb. Mr. Rogerson had a cork leg. He married Miss Elizabeth Reynolds, previously a teacher in the school, and she had a lame foot. Mr. Rogerson died young, only 24 years of age, on August 13th, 1840. His gravestone is in the churchyard at Rothwell.

In 1840 *Mr. William Walker*, formerly flutist in the band of the 9th Infantry, and a native of Burford, in Oxfordshire, was appointed National and Charity Schoolmaster. He had previously settled down in this neighbourhood as farmer's man, at Carlton, afterwards removed to Rothwell, attended the Church, and commenced a night school in Pump Fold. At the National School he was assisted in succession by his two daughters, Caroline and Sarah. He was a good penman and a wise, though strict disciplinarian, no doubt acquiring this trait from his previous military training. He faithfully and regularly filled the post at this school until he got old and feeble, and unequal to the task of managing a large number of scholars, and therefore gave up and received a pension as a reward for long services. But he continued to instruct the charity boys at the Old School where he so long lived, and where he died, on December 8th,

1869, aged 76 years. He had been a schoolmaster in the village for about thirty years.

The National School became damp and out of repair; it was also too much crowded with the large number of children attending, especially after the Wesleyan Day School was discontinued. In order, therefore, to more completely supply the educational wants of the village, a larger and more healthy building was necessary. Mr. Bell, the vicar, took great interest in the matter. The requirement was amply supplied by the erection of the very large and commodious "Holy Trinity Schools" and excellent master's house, placed on glebe land about the centre of the village, on ground formerly connected with the Old Vicarage. The foundation-stone was laid on Thursday, August 20th, 1863, by the Rev. John Bell, vicar, assisted by the churchwardens, John Flockton, Edward Parnaby, John Sanderson, John Dobson, Charles Forrest, Richard Dobson, Joseph Appleyard, William Bedford; and the members of the building committee: Christopher Jewison, jun., John G. Turner, William Smith, John Brown. The architects were Perkin and Backhouse, Leeds.

These schools are built in the form of a T, with pressed brick fronts, and strung with black and white facings. The style is somewhat indefinite, but approaching the Gothic; the larger end windows have simple geometrical tracery. In the centre, at the conjunction of the buildings, is an open porch and belfry, with slated spire. They are well ventilated, and are a noticeable block of buildings, with elevated playground facing the main street. The school is divided into three compartments, for infants, girls, and boys, with head masters and mistresses, and assistant teachers for each.

These schools were built by general subscription, materially assisted by a Government grant, and are under inspection. The children are taught by certified teachers, whose whole study is the art of teaching. They are supported by

Government grant, annual subscriptions and donations, and the children's pence. The premises answer the purpose of Public Schools for Rothwell township without any additional enlargement at present, but when the Compulsory Act comes into force in the township it will be a matter to consider whether they should be enlarged or new Board Schools built. They serve also as the Church Sunday School. They are, however, relieved by the erection of the beautiful but costly Board Schools at Carlton and Robin Hood and the Stourton schools at Thwaite Gate; also the enlarged Church schools at Lofthouse, and those on the point of completion at Waterloo. Where these new Board Schools are built they have proved an ornament to the district. The children of these times are much privileged; with good training and suitable recreation surely ignorance in a great measure will be banished in the future, and the rising generation be wiser and better than their forefathers.

Subjoined is a list of the head masters and mistresses of the Schools and the average number of scholars.

#### GIRLS.

Miss Thompson,\* from 1864 to 1872.

Miss Cockerham, from January 8th, 1872, to the present.

#### INFANTS.

Miss Hill, from 1866 to 1871.

Miss King, from May 1st, 1871, to July.

Mrs. Lazenby, from July 3rd, 1871, to December 31st.

Miss Girling, from January 8th, 1872, to January, 1874.

Miss Bulmer, from January 5th, 1874, to the present.

#### BOYS.

Mr. Charles Rider, from 1864 to February 15th, 1867.

Mr. Richard Nicholson, from Feb. 18th, 1867, to Sept. 30th, 1876.

Mr. Henry Thompson, from October 2nd, 1876,—present master.

Boys' School, 1865. Average number for the year, 88.

„	1867.	„	„	„	79.
„	1870.	„	„	„	90.
„	1873.	„	„	„	106.
„	1876.	„	„	„	112.
„	1877.	„	present time,	„	130.

\* Nearly two years at the "Old National" School.

The *highest* weekly average ever in this school occurred last quarter, 144. The average for the six years being about 100 weekly.

Girls' School, 1865. Average number for the year, 57.

„	1867.	„	„	„	56.
„	1870.	„	„	„	71.
„	1873.	„	„	„	72.
„	1876.	„	„	„	83.
„	1877.	„	present time,		90.

The *highest* weekly average was October 30th, 1875, 110. The average for the six years being about 71 weekly.

Infants' School, 1872. Average number for the year, 124.

„	1873.	„	„	„	126.
„	1874.	„	„	„	125.
„	1875.	„	„	„	128.
„	1876.	„	„	„	130.
„	1877.	„	present time,		135.

The *highest* weekly average was 187, October, 1875.\* The average for the six years being about 128 weekly.

Total average number of scholars attending these schools is over 300 weekly. July, 1877.

### WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL.

On January 18th, 1847, this building, previously devoted entirely to religious instruction on the Sabbath day, was used for the first time as a Wesleyan Day School; Mr. Edward Simpson, a single young man, was the appointed master, and the choice was a happy one. He introduced the "Glasgow Training System" of education, and had a prosperous school. He gained the respect and love of the scholars, and, though strict, yet he was kind, and had a cheerful word for all. Education with him was made attractive and pleasing. The school was fit up with a gallery with graduating steps, on which the scholars were placed, small and great, so that they were all before the eye of the master. He greatly encouraged the art of singing. The

\* I am indebted for these valuable statistics, extracted from the "Log Book," to the present school-master and school-mistresses.

walls were covered with views of animals and geographical places, and other pictures, placed on a slide, intended to impart a charm to instruction. In the front yard was an upright revolving swing with ropes, around which the children ran and jumped, and, on account of its novelty, was much appreciated, the master often joining with the lads, and jumping higher than any of them, surprisingly high, he being remarkably muscular and active. Whilst at Rothwell he was married to a young lady from the neighbourhood of Salisbury. More lucrative employment, however, attracted him from this sphere of useful labour, and, after five and a-quarter years' mastership, he left, much regretted by his scholars. He continues to be an acceptable local preacher amongst the Wesleyans, and resides at Pontefract.

He was succeeded by Mr. E. B. Long, a physically weak and lame man but mentally learned and clever. He was much respected. He died rather suddenly in 1864, and the scholars and other friends buried him in the Rothwell churchyard, and placed over his grave a tombstone as a token of affection.

In the meantime the school was gradually losing ground. Other masters for a short time endeavoured to revive it, but without adequate success, and, not paying expenses, ceased to be. The Church Schools offering superior advantages helped to this result.

### PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Previously to 1830 John Baker Waterton, whose ancestors had long been settled in Rothwell, carried on a day school in Church Field, in the building before alluded to. He was a good schoolmaster, but died when a young man, Oct. 14th, aged 32. He was succeeded by Charles Walker, son of Mr. Thomas Walker, of the "White Swan," in 1837. He was a land surveyor, and was commissioned to make a

survey of the township, but failed in carrying it out. He lived in a house now turned into two cottages, on the hill, near the church, and possessed property in the village. He was born on June 5th, 1798, and died middle-aged.

Old John Todd followed. He had been book-keeper for Stead's, at the Rothwell Factory, and kept a beer-house, called the "Woodpecker." He was proficient, but failed to obtain a sufficient number of scholars.

He was succeeded by his son William, who was not so clever. He had been a cloth weaver. His attainments and teaching abilities were not of the highest order. He was a regular type of the antiquated village pedagogue. He styled himself land surveyor, but did not gain sufficient respect to ensure success, and consequently had to give up. The remainder of his days were spent in the service of Mr. and Mrs. Bell, of Oulton Green.

Mr. William Price, the present assistant-overseer and rate-collector, succeeded in 1848, and has, up to the present, conducted a good Commercial Day School for boys. He is an excellent master, and has turned out some clever and well-educated youths, many of whom have on this account obtained good situations.

Mr. Horrox, curate, in order to add to his stipend, had a school in the house now occupied by Mr. Price, in Church Field, from about 1832-7. Miss Hindle and Miss Burrell taught the girls. The boys were generally sons of yeomen and substantial farmers and those of well-to-do families of that day. Mr. Horrox was an excellent violinist and a learned and gentlemanly man.

#### DAME SCHOOLS.

Before the present improved system of infant instruction was adopted various schools were held in cottages by elderly ladies, who taught girls and boys of tender age the simple

rudiments of learning, and the mysteries of the art of knitting, sewing, and patching, and the like. There was one kept by Nanny Stead, near the "Ginnel," and afterwards up by the "Cross," about forty years ago, and later. Nanny Lee had one up the Church Hill; and several other schools of various degrees, have from time to time sprung up in various parts of the village, but limited space at command will not allow a notice of them.

#### OLD TRADES.

It may be stated at the outset that the materials for this article are somewhat scanty and are obtained chiefly from the Registers, which, from the middle of the 17th century, give the trades and employments in connection with names and dates. These are judged to be indicative of the general employment of the people at the time. Some of the trades are obsolete about here and curiously suggestive, and are therefore more especially noticed.

At first the bulk of the thinly-scattered inhabitants were employed in the cultivation of the land and in things belonging to agriculture, accordingly the names of "labourer," "husbandman," and "yeoman," are very frequent. Handicraft trades are only occasionally mentioned, as the necessity for them arises and they become established. Further on, and consequent on a better knowledge of the underground wealth of the coal and stone of the district, the people become more engaged in the work of coal-mining and quarrying and the manufacture of tools for the purpose.

The weaving of textile fabrics was carried on by small masters in their own houses or premises. After serving family and local necessities the residue was offered at the neighbouring markets. Many of these small makers received orders from Leeds firms for stuff, linen, woollen, and hat-making, often being furnished with the raw material and a

stated price given them for labour. In process of time these local trades became absorbed by and concentrated in the growing towns.

THE CLOTHING OR CLOTH HAND-WEAVING TRADE.—(Woollen cloths, blankets, flannels, &c.,) was early established in this parish, at *Oulton* particularly. In 1662 engaged in it was *George Taylor*; 1714, *Joseph Chapman* and *Timothy Oldridge*; 1715, *John Hargreaves*, and many others. At *Rothwell*, 1714, *John Fearnley*; 1731, *John Spurr*.

LINEN WEAVING.—Shirting dowlas, bed-ticking, huckabacks, &c. At *Rothwell*, 1713, *John Rhodes*; 1769, *Joseph Wilson*. At *Oulton*, 1730, *Robert Hey*; 1761, *Benjamin Smith*.

SERGE WEAVING.—Twilled woollen materials. At *Rothwell*, 1716, *Samuel Britain*.

STUFF WEAVING.—Camlets, plaids, and petticoatings in colours. At *Rothwell*, 1766, *John Bilsborough*; 1771, *Richard Ingham*. At *Oulton*, 1768, *John Beever*. At *Rhodes Green*, 1772, *Jeremiah Carter*.

The Mortons of *Rothwell*. *Samuel*, about a hundred years ago, and his son *James*, now living at *Oulton*, were engaged in this branch,—the latter in early life. *John Ely* and *Matthew Ely*, of *Rothwell*, worked at this business, and latterly *cotton* weaving. *Matthew* can be remembered carrying his manufactured load to the *Leeds* market on his shoulders.

SHAG WEAVING refers to long-haired materials or plush, worn for breeches, vests, and slack coats, of a very durable nature. At *Rothwell*, 1772, *John Burton*.

OLD CORDWAINERS (OR SHOEMAKERS).—*Rothwell*, 1713, *John Snowden*; 1720, *William Priestley*; 1739, *Richard Longley*; 1766, *Thomas Willson*. *The Green (Ouzelwell)*, 1733, *Richard Furniss*; 1760, *John Patrick*. *Carleton*, 1713, *Thomas North*.

HATTERS.—The “hatting” trade was in the hands of the Copleys, the Blackburns, and Mr. Aaron Copley was the last. He died in 1863. His home and shop was near the Church Bridge. This business was important at one time, for beaver hats were worn by all ages, being part even of a little boy’s costume. Prices ran from 6s. to 21s., and they were taken and disposed of on stalls in the *Wakefield* market and neighbouring places.

GLOVERS.—*Rothwell*, 1716, *William Hudson*; 1719, *John Cheesborough*.

STAY-MAKER.—*Rothwell*, 1731, *John Norton*; 1760, *James Sikes*.

PERUKE-MAKER.—(Large flowing wigs, so fashionable for the gentry of the period.) *Carleton*, 1764, *William Waugh*.

BREECHES-MAKERS.—As late as about 1804 working men wore virtually a leather suit, including leather breeches, leggings, and vest, with the hair kept on. Gentlemen’s suits were generally of buckskin and often

lasted seven years. Little boys wore leather breeches (short trousers tied at the side), and children had on leather “Dicks,” as they were called, a kind of pinafore. About the above date Mr. Thomas Smith, of *Ouzelwell Green*, carried on an extensive tanning and leather breeches making business, employing a number of tailors. He supplied the army with them. About thirty years since a large stock of little leather breeches, part of the stock of the above deceased manufacturer, were sold off, at sixpence per pair, in this neighbourhood. At *Oulton*, 1752, *John Dobson*, “brichese” maker; 1764, *John Carr*; At *Rothwell*, 1761, *John Manchester*; 1810, and later, tailor *Illingworth*.

SKINNERS.—(Preparing for the tanners.) In 1694 the skinning business was carried on at *Rothwell*. 1761, *William Leake*; 1771, *Edmund Cockshott*; 1784, *Jonas Smith*, and afterwards his son *John*, as Skinner and leather dresser. The *Cravens* had a skinning place down the Coach and Horses Yard up to about 1846, and *Mr. Kaye* continued it a few years longer.

FELL-MONGERS.—(One who deals in sheep skins and parts the wool from the pelts.) *Rothwell*, 1726, *William Cryer*. For generations the *Lakes of Carlton*, and up to a few years since also *Dickinson’s*, of *Royds Green*.

TANNERS AND CURRIERS.—(Completing the article for the shoemaker and saddler.) Tan-yards and tan-pits were in various parts of *Rothwell* and in other villages of the parish, chiefly where the stream ran. At *Oulton*, 1730, *Thomas Taylor*; 1744, *John Vavasour*; later, *Walker*, *Robert Atkinson*, *Cooper*, and *Kempe*. At *Thorpe Lane End*, 1747, *Richard Scholefield*. At *Rothwell*, 1750, *Richard Vavasour*; 1788, *William Smith*. At *Ouzelwell Green*, 1790, and later, *Thomas Smith*.

About fifty years ago tanning and currying was connected with the “Old Gaol” buildings and adjoining croft. Some of the rooms were used as “drying” sheds. Certain houses down by the Mill Dam, at Shaw Ditch, look as if they had been used for a similar purpose.

TALLOW CHANDLING was carried on by *Mr. Harrison*, *Mr. Roodhouse*, and a *Mr. Walker*, from forty to sixty years ago. Previously to 1800 *John Burton* was a chandler.

WORSTED SPINNING.—At the Flint Mill, down in the hollow near the Vicarage, *Mr. Joseph Boyle* was a worsted spinner.

EPSOM SALTS MANUFACTORY.—About 1820 a firm from Bradford way made use of the Old Gaol before it was turned into dwellings, and a garden near, for an Epsom Salt refinery.

LACE WEAVING.—This was about 1800, and a few years later the common employment of females in many households of the parish. It was a work of the fingers. The tools were bobbins of a small size; and rounded oblong cushion, with pins and parchment pattern. The thread used was linen of a very fine kind, and rather costly. There were lace-weaving

schools established, and girls were sent to learn the art of lace-making. After serving a year's apprenticeship they were presented with the tackling complete and a new *print* dress. The schoolmistresses remembered are, Susy Cave, Sally Holt, Fanny Bilsborough, and Hannah Gill, sixty-five years since. The prices of the manufactured article ran from 4d. to 9s. per yard, according to the depth and elaborateness of the pattern, the price being generally understood by the style. The names of some were: "half frill," "three quarters frill," "simple bell," "double ox eye," "toad face," "scallop with bead in," "barley corn," "three stalks," "running river," "princess feather," "diamond," &c. The monotony of the process was relieved by the girls (often thirty assembled together) counting the pins backwards, repeating other things, or singing, which of course occasioned a kind of humming confusion. Certain drapery hawkers came round and bartered goods, generally wearing apparel, for the lace, so that little money changed hands. A Thomas Wilsden was one of the hawkers, and a local preacher. Occasionally the aristocracy of the neighbourhood took the lace in charity of the vendors. This business was a means of adding to the rather scanty wages at the time of the male workers, something analogous to the match-box making in cottages of the present day; but, of course, the introduction of machinery at Nottingham and elsewhere cheapened the article, so that hand labour could not compete to profit or advantage.

**WIRE-DRAWERS.**—At Rothwell, 1713, Peter Thompson; 1714, John Eltringham.

**CUTLER.**—At Rothwell, 1723, William Furbis.

**RIDDLE-MAKER.**—(For coal riddling.) At Rothwell, 1734-5, John Ward, "wyre-riddle maker;" 1750, Benjamin Grave.

**SIEVE-MAKERS.**—(For brewing home-brewed ale being very common at one time.) At Oulton, 1713, Jonathan Flockton; in later days William Taylor. There was a kind made for flint riddling at potteries.

**RING-MAKERS.**—At Rhodes, 1733, John Bulmer; 1736, Thomas Bulmer.

**BASKET-MAKERS.**—At Rothwell, 1733, Robert Gibson; 1736, John Gibson; 1769, John Dobson; 1772, William Flockton; 1777, Joseph Flockton; 1769, Benjamin Flockton (scuttle-maker); in 1800, Thomas Flockton, William Gibson, Benjamin Dobson, Richard Dobson, Thomas Gibson, Marmaduke Gibson. The only people left in this trade are Jacob Dobson, and William Dobson. Four blind men, David Brittain, Francis Stainer, John Hampson, and Joseph Sykes were in this line of business. The latter was a chair-mender, he died in 1867, aged 29 years.

**POTTERY.**—The first record of Rothwell Pottery is as follows: 1771, Benjamin, son of Benjamin Taylor, buried, the 28th of February, from Rothwell Pottery; 1770, William Astbury; Christopher Speight, labourer

at "Pot" House; 1772, John Wagstaff; 1773, Enoch Ball; 1775, Richard Taylor; 1776, Samuel Shaw; 1778, Philip Porter; 1807, Penny "Pott" House.\* In 1802 the Pottery, as a manufactory, seems to have been discontinued, but part of it, including the tower, was left. In 1808 it fell down suddenly, and some people living in the yard barely escaped death. The yard where it stood is now called Pottery Fold. It is entered just beyond the Cross, and goes down towards the Beck. Tabitha Farrah, a noted masculine woman, and a kind of leader, if not founder of the Primitive Methodists in Rothwell, built cottages in this yard. The property afterwards got into the hands of the late Mr. Roodhouse.

**GLASS-MAKING.**—The first mention of this trade we come across is that in 1730 Joshua Finney, of Rothwell, was a glass-maker. In 1737 William Booth was a glass-maker at the "New Glass House," but resided at Rothwell. It is not clear where these works were situated, or whether they were the glass-houses near the Race Course, Haigh Park. In 1739 we meet with a more explicit memorandum, viz., John Pimperton, glass-maker, Over Hague; in 1743, Thomas Clark, from Hague; in 1754, Joshua Fenny, glass-maker, Rothwell; in 1760, George Brumbley, glass-founder, Low Goslem. Glass manufacturing was anciently carried on by the Fentons, at Haigh Park. This can be traced out from the pedigree of this old family as far back as the early part of the 17th century. A James Fenton resided here in 1700, and died in 1759. His son William lived here up to 1774, when he died, and was buried at Hunslet. Another son resided here until about 1796, where he had a numerous family. Afterwards he removed to Carr House, near Rotherham. His brother Thomas, already interested in the coal trade, carried on the glass business for a short time, but gave it up, being disgusted with the dissatisfaction of the men and their repeated demands for advanced wages. This would be about 1800. At Low Goslem it is said the row of low cottages were the workmen's dwellings. The glass-works were pulled down many years ago.

**PAPER-MAKING.**—Wrigglesworth (Woodlesford), 1756, John Proctor; 1765, Isaac Walton. Up to a few years ago the late Mr. J. C. Oddie was in this trade.

**LOGWOOD-GRINDER.**—Wrigglesworth, 1713, Timothy Stocks.

**DYER.**—Oulton, 1767, William Bentley; 1775, William Sigston.

**BARKEM OR HORSE-COLLAR MAKER.**—Rothwell, 1737, Ralfe Harrison.

\* Flint, necessary as an ingredient in earthenware manufacture, was ground at the mill near the running water beyond the present vicarage. Its distance from the Pottery was to increase the fall of water, and thereby obtain greater power. When the Pottery ceased, the flint mill was not required.

MILLERS.—*Thorpe Mill*, 1752, *Joshua Appleyard*; *Oulton*, 1772, *George Scott*.

ROPER.—*Ouzelwell Green*, 1713, *John Snawden*.

GLAZIER.—*Rothwell*, 1714, *John Downes*; 1765, *Benjamin Storey*.

TINKER.—*Lofthouse*, 1735, *John Proud*.

WINDMILLS.—At *Rothwell Haigh* (a post mill), *Edmund Thompson* had it opposite the Victoria Pit; there was also one in Windmill Field, Carlton Lane. A smock mill, built of stone, at *Holmsley*, kept at one time by a *William Dawson*, and afterwards by *John Flockton*, where it is said “Sammy Hick” came to get his corn ground; another, at the commencement of Oulton Lane, not far off the Lodge, on the eminence, traditionally handed down, but not remembered by the oldest.

PROFESSIONS.—*Rothwell*, 1713, *William Shivers*, dancing-master; *Lofthouse*, 1736, *Anthony Thompson*, gauger (measurer); *Rhodes*, 1750, *James Weetman*, bone-setter; attorney-at-law, *Rothwell*, 1730, *Thomas Beckwith*; 1750, *Robert Beckwith*.

OLD BUTCHERS.—*Rothwell*, 1720, *Leonard Sedgwick*; 1738, *Thomas Butterfield*; 1766, *Henry Farrer*; 1800, *Benjamin Leak*, next to Mr. Abraham Nichols's; *Samuel Farrer*, near the “Coach and Horses”; *William Walton* had a shop in part of Mr. Steel's house.

CARRIERS.—*Lofthouse*, 1715, *John Taylor*; *The Green*, 1724, *John Ianson*.

STAGE WAGGONERS.—The *Olivers* and *Leakes*, of *Carlton*, acted as stage waggoners, carrying goods from *Leeds* and *Wakefield* to *Norwich* and *London* before railways were made.

BOATMAN.—*Wrigglesworth* (Woodlesford), 1729, *Edward Davison*. Numerous instances of the names of boatmen are given after this date, chiefly from the above quarter.

STONE-QUARRYMEN.—1764, *Thomas Smith*, buried 18th December, from *Oulton Quarry*; 1765, *John Collin*, of *Oulton Quarries*; 1779, *John Armitage*, of *Oulton Quarry*; 1761, *Christopher Beal*, buried from *Oulton Quarries*, 10th April.

MASONS.—*Oulton*, 1717, *William Owin*; 1736, *Thomas Shay*; *Rothwell*, 1717, *Robert Burnill*; *Wrigglesworth*, 1717, *James Dobson*.

BRICKLAYERS.—*Rothwell*, 1713, *Samuel Vevers*; 1719, *Robert Fentiman*.

BLACKSMITHS.—*Oulton*, 1714, *William Burwell*; *Lofthouse*, 1717, *Anthony Hutchinson*; *Rothwell*, 1726, *George Atkinson*; *Marsh Side*, 1751, *William Burton*.

CARPENTER.—*Thorpe*, 1715, *John Lister*.

JOINERS.—*Lofthouse*, 1720, *John Waddington*; *Rothwell*, about 1810, *Joshua Morley* (his son John married a niece of Sammy Hick, the village blacksmith).

NAIL-MAKER.—*Rothwell*, 1737, *Edward Allon*, buried, aged about 82 years.

TAILORS.—*Oulton*, 1715, *Anthony Moor*; 1718, *John Crowder*; *Thorpe*, 1721, *John Armitage*. About these dates, and later, a good many “taylers” (tailors) seem to have been located in *Oulton*, evidently in close connection with the clothing business.

DRAPER.—*Rothwell*, 1727, *William Wood*.

SHOPKEEPERS.—*Rothwell*, 1735, *Thomas Gaunt*; 1751, *Christopher Myers* (grocer); 1810, or *John Nelson* (also constable) kept the shop now occupied by Mr. Charles Ward. He was a grandson of John Nelson who first introduced Methodism into Yorkshire. His father was also a Wesleyan Methodist preacher. Afterwards *Joseph Empringham* took the shop; he died in 1822, aged 52. His widow, an excellent lady, removed to opposite the “Coach and Horses,” and had a small shop there.

PUBLIC BAKEHOUSE.—*Peggy Westmorland* kept it about fifty years ago, on the premises now occupied by Squire Marshall, Town Street.

## THE CLOTH FACTORY

Was built in 1806, by order of Mr. Butterworth, for the benefit of his two nephews, John and Sam Beswick. The site was judiciously chosen, being near the Beck, and having connected with it a splendid spring of water, named “Caudey Well,” noted for its clearness and softness. The buildings were situated at Spring Head (now called), in Woodlesford Lane, anciently known as “Broomhills” Lane. The stone was obtained from a quarry in this lane. From the softness of the water the cloth obtained a beautiful finish, and became noted far and wide. The nephews and uncle disagreed and parted, and in a short time, to improve his circumstances, Mr. Butterworth took as a sleeping partner Mr. William Clark. Mr. Butterworth notwithstanding was in difficulties, and went abroad to elude his creditors and to keep the mill a-going. He died abroad, it is said in Portugal. His widow carried it on. Dr. Hindle, then of *Oulton*, married her. She had four sons: Robert, Winter, James, and Thomas, and three daughters, to the former

husband. The sons after her marriage conducted the business, and gave Mr. Clark a retiring salary for a short time. The Butterworths had the factory for about sixteen years.

Messrs. Jabez and Thomas Stead, brothers, next rented the factory. This firm made and finished all throughout, and turned out some excellent cloth, of Spanish wool, often twenty shillings per yard. During their tenure there was a most prosperous trade in Rothwell, and the mill for several years was run both night and day, employing relays of hands. Better wages were given, and the parish of Rothwell generally reaped the advantage. £150 was often paid weekly in wages, and the town presented quite a busy aspect. Many strangers lodged or settled down in the place. The Factory Buildings were large and convenient and covered a good space of ground. Mr. Thomas Stead was the traveller, and obtained extensive orders from the American market. Unfortunately, however, for themselves and Rothwell, Dr. Hindle and Jabez Stead were greatly at variance, and, after nine years' occupancy, the firm left Rothwell, and started at Low Gate Mill, in Low Road, Hunslet, afterwards removed to Beeston Royds, and then to the "Silk Mill," near the many-arched bridge at Hunslet Carr, and Mr. Jabez died at Hunslet Moor side.

Mr. Joseph Arundale, from Bramley, succeeded. He occupied the whole of the buildings, but did not finish the cloth completely, only as far as the "balk" state. He put down some of the latest invented and best machinery. He died suddenly in an apoplectic fit. His widow continued the business, and for a short time Mr. Thomas Rylands came over to manage for her; afterwards Mr. Walker took charge of affairs, and married Mrs. Arundale. The mill property had in the meantime got thrown into Chancery. It was afterwards offered for sale. A number of Rothwell gentlemen, knowing the advantage to the village of a good manufacturing business, were forming a Company in order to purchase the buildings and machinery. Mr. Blayds, who

had land adjoining, and who was not favourable to trade, and the smoke consequent on the manufacturing process, came into the market and bought the estate. Mr. Walker rented part of the factory of him on certain terms; but Mr. Blayds, finding these were not complied with, thought that the land in which it stood would be more profitable to him. No doubt if the whole mill had been occupied, and an enterprising firm had got hold of it, it might have been spared to benefit the town; however, it was doomed to be cleared away. Mr. Walker occupied it for about four years. The main of it was pulled down from 1845-6, and the machinery disposed of in Leeds. This was no doubt felt at the time to be a great calamity to Rothwell.

#### THE COAL TRADE.

A scientific or exhaustive account of the coal mining of this district is not attempted in the present essay. The object has been rather to collect old and curious facts from the experiences of the *oldest* living miners, and the recollection of information upon the subject furnished to them by their forefathers in the same employment, facts which, if not put into permanent form, would have been ere long irretrievably lost. From a file of Leeds newspapers, in the Leeds Philosophical Hall Library, dating back to 1754, a few interesting items have been extracted. The Church Registers have been useful also as indicating the locality where early miners dwelt, and occasionally notices of accidents are given, so that the districts where the first pits were sunk may be safely conjectured.

*Middleton*, from all evidences, is the oldest worked coal-field in the parish.\* As the Registers give the occupation of "colier" in 1639, it may be naturally inferred that the Leghe family, the ancient proprietors of the Middleton

\* Coal mines were at Beeston in 1679.

estate, were the first to open out pits. It was not until the latter part of the 17th century that the Brandlings became connected with it, when Ralph Brandling, of Felling, county of Durham, Esq., who was born in 1662, acquired the estate through marriage with Anne, daughter and heiress of John Leghe, of Middleton, county of York. He died in 1712, but settled the Manor of Middleton, after the death of his wife, upon his brother Ralph Brandling, upon whose death, in 1749, it descended to his son, Charles Brandling, Esq.

In 1714 we meet with the names of *Middleton* miners: William Ainsley, Edmund Wood, James Sherwood; 1721, Cornelius Wood.

In 1731 Middleton is spoken of as a lordship which abounds with good coal and wood. In 1733 an explosion took place, on December 2nd, at "Middleton Wood Coal Pitts," in which the following lost their lives: Joshua Mills and John Mills (his son), also John and Benjamin Wood, brothers.

In an advertisement, appearing in the *Leeds Intelligencer*, dated 17th January, 1758, Mr. Charles Brandling (wishes to do a larger trade with the Leeds people) proposes to reduce the price of coal, and in order to more speedily and completely supply their wants, he intends to have a waggon way from Middleton Collieries to his staith in Leeds. He offers to serve them with coal for the term of sixty years at 4*2*d. per corf, containing 7680 cubical inches, and weighing 16 stones and upwards; but if delivered at their respective dwellings they will be charged *sixpence* per corf.

Signed by RICHARD HUMBLE.

In the same paper, *William and Thomas Fenton* (but this advertisement is not directed from any place) offer to deliver any quantity of "fresh-drawn, clean-dressed bottom coals" to the houses at *sixpence* per corf, containing 8830 cubical inches, above three bushels *Winchester* measure, up-heaped, and to weigh 16 stone, such contracts to subsist for the term of eleven years.

*Beeston Coals* are offered by John Wilks at "threepence a corf," with as good, if not better measure than others. In an after advertisement it is put,—N.B. Middleton is under *no lease*. Fentons add to theirs that contracts with them are good for *seventy years*.

In September, 1758, it is recorded that "the first waggon-

load of coals was brought from the pits of Charles Brandling, Esq., down the new road to his staith, near the bridge in this town (Leeds), agreeable to the 'Act of Parliament passed last session.' It is added: 'On the occasion the bells were set a-ringing, the cannons in our fort fired, and general joy appeared in every face.' *\*\**

In 1713 Joseph Ellis was miner, living at *Rothwell*; 1720, John Graves; 1721, William Earle, John Furbus. In 1718, at *Lofthouse*, Isaac Wainwright; 1722, Jonathan Webster, John Reed.

In Sanderson's Pastures, Royds Green, were some very old pits, named "Danby Brig Pit," and "Sawney Colliery." The covered-up places can be seen by the impressions remaining. They were shallow, and the little coal was brought, in the first instance, in baskets on the shoulders of men up ladders resting on stages placed at certain intervals.

\* **A CHALDRON OF COALS.**—The chaldrone, chalder, or chaldron of coals was originally a measure containing 36 *Winchester* bushels. The legal coal bushel was altered and made a little larger in 1713, and was defined as a measure made round with a plain and even bottom 19*1*/*2* inches from outside to outside, and to contain one *Winchester* bushel and one quart of water. A standard coal bushel was made and kept at the Exchequer in pursuance of the provisions of the Act. The legal measure of coals was regulated by this standard coal bushel until the imperial coal bushel was legalised in 1824 as the only standard measure. In 1835 it was enacted that coals were to be sold by weight only. The weight of a chaldron of coal appears to have been first defined in 1695, so far as regards the carriage by sea of Newcastle coals, when 53 cwt. were allowed to every chaldron. This chaldron, however, was known as "Newcastle measure;" but in a later statute of the same year an equivalent duty of 5s. per chaldron was imposed upon coals sold by measure, reckoning 36 bushels to the chaldron, *Winchester* measure, and per ton upon coals sold by weight, showing the chaldron of coals to be considered as equal in quantity to the ton of coals. It was enacted that all contracts and agreements for the sale and delivery of coal by measure within these limits made previously and not then completed should be and continue in full force and virtue, except that such coals should be delivered by weight and not by measure, and for that purpose 25*1*/*2* cwt. should be considered and taken to be equivalent to the chaldron.

In Royds Green Lane, at a much later period, pits were sunk about ten yards, and worked with a "jack roll" on the windlass system, similar to a draw well, having handle and rope with basket attached, and women were employed to work them.

Mr. James Fenton, formerly of Woodhouse Hill, Hunslet, resided at the Glasshouses, at Haigh Park. He is the first person we come across of that ancient\* and numerous family engaged in the coal trade.† It is in this wise: "March 27th, 1759, Sunday night, died at his house, nigh Rothwell, Mr. James Fenton, a very eminent coal merchant, by which he had acquired a plentiful fortune."‡ Not far from his residence once, are filled up and overgrown old workings, said to have been named "Tannacarr" Pits, "Low Goslem" Pits, "Glasshouse," and "Thwaite Colliery," the three latter indicating their situation. No one remembers them in operation or any tradition relating to them. The old pit mouths have occasionally given way, and animals grazing on the spot have been known to fall into them a short depth.

William and Thomas, sons of the aforesaid James, carried on the business before and after their father's death. There was another son named James, who resided at Glasshouses, and who married in 1778 Tomasine Ibetson, daughter of Sir Henry Ibetson, magistrate of Leeds. Mr. James Fenton had a large family born in the parish. He seems to have been a glass manufacturer as well as farmer. After 1796 no trace of the family appears in the Register. It is likely he removed from this quarter, when 75 years of age, and settled down at "Carr House," near Rotherham, for

\* One of the Fentons, of Middleton, married into the family of the Leighs, of Middleton, *temp.* Edward III., 1332 (*Thoresby*). Some of them resided in Hunslet, and were joint proprietors of the manor (*Parsons*).

† Started about 1723.

‡ *Leeds Intelligencer.*

after this date no further memoranda of this family can be discovered.\*

It is pretty certain that at a very early date some branch of the Fentons sunk pits at Lofthouse Gate, not far off the present station, and in the immediate vicinity of Springfield House, at one time the residence of Madam Dealtry, but only the top coal was got.

From 1722 to 1733 the names of Lofthouse, Carlton, and Haigh miners are frequent. In 1746, September 15th, is a memorandum of coals led by Edward Walton (of Rothwell) from "Wakefield Wood Pitts," 6 doz. for 2s., Dec. 5th, "15 corves of cracklins, by John Holmes (of Carleton), for 2s. and 6d."

In 1723 *Oulton* miners were William Burley; 1731, Joseph Clayton. In 1753, John Hague, *Wrigglesworth*; 1733, John Pyper. These may have been employed at Sir William Lowther's Astley Pits or at Royds Green.

It is always affirmed that the first "pumping" engine was put down by Mr. Thomas Fenton, at Carr Lane, about 1750. The tall old brick building, now used as a cottage, turning in the yard from Wakefield Road to Woodhouse Hill, is still called the "Old Engine." It was one of Emmett's inventions (before Watt), on the atmospheric principle, worked by water and steam, with open top cylinder. This undertaking it is said was very costly, and necessitated the laying out of much capital. Mr. Fenton not only staked his own fortune on the result, but had involved himself deeply with others. The idea of having coal so near and convenient to Leeds was much favoured, and gentlemen had freely lent and advanced money to encourage the attempt. But the difficulties were immense: after contending with water for a considerable time, affairs became critical and desperate. Thomas Fenton had received fourteen writs against him, and he therefore felt the importance

\* In an Itinerary, published in 1812, Carr House, near Rotherham, is put down as the seat of J. Fenton, Esq.

of a bold effort. He went at once to his engine man, John Casey, and begged of him to fire up and put all the power on possible, for things had come to such a pass that the result of that day's efforts would be to him equivalent either to a "coach or a gaol." The engine man, somewhat more hopeful, believed fortune would smile. He worked all night, and by next morning the water was exhausted and the engine "bumped." Soon after the coal was reached. The tide of affairs now turned, and Mr. Fenton's creditors withheld their claims, and would have advanced more, believing that Mr. Fenton would now realise his highest expectations and that his fortune would be quickly made, and so it turned out. It is said that the *first* load of coals was dragged up Briggate by the workmen who had helped to win them.

From Carr Lane Mr. Fenton worked up the hill towards Rothwell Haigh. In 1754 is this entry: "Robert Hollings, widower, was buried from 'Ingian' (engine), Carr Laine."

The *second* engine of a similar kind was erected not long after, at Bell Hill. The tall patched-up building, in the middle of a field, is very plain to be seen; it is used as a cottage dwelling. "In 1760 Robert Briggs was engineer at Carr Laine." "In 1767, July 31, a collier in Mr. Fenton's 'Bell Hill' Pit was killed by a corf falling upon him."

About these dates we meet with many accidents happening to Carr Lane and Bell Hill miners, which will appear afterwards amongst the mining casualties.

From the conformation of the ground, it is to be seen that many old shafts have been sunk in this neighbourhood.

During the time these pits were working Rothwell Haigh coal was offered for sale on a lease by Lord Stourton. Mr. Fenton felt the importance of securing it; moreover, he knew that another party was also in the market. Mr. Fenton immediately took one of his best horses and rode in the direction of London, with very short stoppages on the way; his animal, however, failed when only a few miles

from the city; he was obliged to leave it and engage another. He was just in time to conclude the bargain, as his competitor, who had had the start of him, was arriving, thus Mr. Fenton was rewarded for his promptitude.

On the authority of Mr. William Hargreaves, who, along with J. B. Charlesworth, Esq., examined the old books, the *first* pit sunk at Rothwell Haigh was in 1760. The first water-pumping machine was called the Patent Engine. It was fixed down by the Low Shops, and was one of the celebrated firm of Boulton and Watt's *condensing* patents, and probably erected under their own superintendence, technically it is named a single engine.

In sinking this shaft the men had immense difficulties to surmount. They met with a very thick bed of "galliard," said to be five yards deep, which more or less always crops up in these measures. It is a kind of iron-stone more difficult to penetrate than flint. The mode of sinking was not then so scientific, tools were not of the best kind, and blasting with gunpowder was unknown. The only means employed was the use of quick lime, which at best was rather slow and not very effectual. The men had been hewing and hacking for weeks, and at last, in despair, they went to Mr. Fenton,\* and told him of their inability to make progress. He asked them the question, "Did they make a dust or muddy the water?" "They said 'Yes.'" "Then go on," he answered, knowing that, however small the impression made, probably in time they would accomplish it. He added that he had a "hammer" which would in the end break through, meaning his money. It is traditionally affirmed that during the process of sinking a strange man came seeking employment to Mr. Fenton, stating that

\* Mr. Thomas Fenton then lived at Rothwell Haigh, in the large house named Haigh House, now occupied conjointly by Mr. Oliver and Mr. Atkinson. It used to be called the Manor House, Red Hall, Low House, Fenton House. Though belonging to Lord Stourton Mr. Fenton greatly enlarged it.

he was a sinker. On this account he was readily engaged. He asked if they had any drills, but they did not understand what was meant by them. The man got some made, and ordered a lot of blasting powder. When the holes were formed he placed the powder in them, ascended to the top, took red-hot cinders in a shovel and threw them in. Immediately an explosion took place and a large quantity of material was thrown out. Mr. Fenton thought the pit side was blown in. The man wished Mr. Fenton to go down with him into the pit to examine the result, but he at first declined; seeing, however, shortly that no danger need be feared, he ventured, and found to his great astonishment that more real work had been done by this experiment than all his six men had accomplished in six weeks. After this drills were used and the art of blasting put into operation.

The next pumping engine, on the same principle, was erected at the road side going down to "Jaw Bones," and at the top of the lane leading to the "Low Shops." The Engine House was three storied. It was named the "Green Engine," probably from the *green* lane in which it was situated, or because its first engine-man was a Joe Green. The well connected with it was between 40 and 50 yards deep, and it lifted the drift water up to supply another engine near Cousin's Pit, called the "Piccadilly" Engine, which in its turn fed the old water-pulling machines.

The principle on which the water-machines acted was as follows:—Three shafts were sunk close to each other in a somewhat triangular form. They were commonly known as the "Tub" Pit, "Chain" Pit, and "Coal" Pit. They were connected with one large drum. The weight of water drew up a lighter weight of coal. Empty corves were let down the coal pit, and when the signal was given the water tub, which was filled from a leather bag full of water with hose attached, quickly descended, drawing up the corf or corves of coals. At the bottom of this tub was a "valve" or "clack," which on touching the ground let out the

water, and in their turn the empty corves drew up the water tub. The whole movement was regulated and assisted by the revolving balance-chain with weight attached, which descended only half way down along with the descending water or coal, and came back with the ascending load: and, to steady the whole affair, a brake was used at the top. The water dissipated at the bottom was pumped up by the pumping engines, and so used over again. It sometimes happened in droughty weather that the reservoirs and channels supplying these machines became dry, then the pits had to stand. These machines were chiefly used in Messrs. Fenton's days, and are said to have been invented by Mr. George Leather, of Rotherham. They were a great improvement over the "jack roll" and "gin," and served the purpose for deeper pits. Messrs. Charlesworth at first used them, but soon threw them aside for the more powerful High Pressure Pulling Engines, which did the work quicker and safer.

Messrs. Charlesworth put down a pumping engine\* alongside the old "Patent Engine; and when the "water-machines" were no longer required, the Green Engine became useless, having served its purpose; the building was pulled down some forty years ago; the old cylinder and other parts of the machinery were lying about a long time. The pit mouth was railed round. It still serves as a drift pit, from which the water is conveyed down to near the Race Course. The old pond near was filled up and the part turned into a garden.

Numerous pits were sunk in Fenton's time, but seldom penetrated to the "deep" coal. The shafts were rank and numerous, as the ground now seems literally perforated with old workings. This was in order to secure ventilation and to get the coal to the top as soon as possible, for the modes

\* In 1837 the Victoria Engine was erected. It was intended for Manchester Waterworks, but did not answer there, and was purchased by Messrs. Charlesworth.

of under-ground transit were bad, and only short distances could be traversed. At this stage of mining the roads were low and narrow, and it is marvellous how any ordinary man could move or exist in such places. A kind of corf in a fixed sledge was pushed along flags sometimes having wood rails. The men had "gears" or straps on, like some drawing animal, and dragged one corf whilst they thrust another with their heads, and often from this cause became prematurely bald. As they were obliged to be always in a stooping position on account of the lowness of the roof, they were compelled to use short pieces of wood, called "gate sticks," in order to paddle with and to prevent them falling forwards. In gathering up the round pieces of coal they used "scarrs" (not shovels), made of wood edged with iron, to scoop with, and consisting of two pieces, one for each hand, with handle-straps at the back. About sixty years ago, at Lofthouse and Waterloo, young women worked at the bottom of the pits indiscriminately with the men, and of course evil consequences followed. Women even less than forty years ago were employed at pit banks in riddling coal and loading carts. Happily this kind of slavery and abomination was done away with by Act of Parliament, in 1841. Pit ventilation in olden times was not well understood, and there was an ignorance of the chemical nature and composition of gases. The "wind" roads were narrow and confined, and the small "pan" fires were insufficient to drive out the lurking "fire-damp" or to cause a thorough draught, consequently early mining accidents were numerous. Moreover, the primitive modes of pulling up the coal and the human freight were often insecure and dangerous: slipping and breaking of the ropes and the falling of corves were frequent casualties. The risks run by the workers are, when considered enough to make one shudder.

When an underground examination of the pit workings was necessary, or even for ordinary coal-mining use, a man or a boy had, strapped at the front of him, what was termed

a "flint mill," in use before the "Davy Lamp." It consisted of a movable steel rasped cylinder, and was turned by a handle. The cylinder rubbed against a piece of flint and so emitted a flood of sparks. The collier was thus enabled to grope his tedious way through the dark and dismal passages of the mine, or to follow laboriously his daily avocation. This instrument (now unnecessary on account of superior ventilation) was used where danger from noxious and inflammable gases was apprehended, and where even screened lights were considered unsafe and liable to cause ignition.

Some accidents were no doubt attributable to the carelessness and thoughtlessness of the men working with naked lights in dangerous places. These repeated misfortunes drew the attention of scientific men to the subject, and to obviate the danger, Davy's Safety Lamp was invented, in 1815, with its wire-gauze and screened light—a real boon to the miner.

It is uncertain which was the first "bye" pit sunk at this period.\* The names and situations of the pits sunk in Fenton's days, but now out of use, are as follows:—"Holling Bob," near the "low shops;" this was about 120 yards deep, and worked with horse and gin, a means of drawing to the surface, still in use at the commencement of pit sinking, of course only practicable at comparatively shallow depths and with light weights. The "Causeway" and "Grove" at the Wakefield Turnpike side, near Mr. Oliver's Farm. The "Rainbow," near "Cousins" Pit. "Lucky," back of the Angel Inn. "Todd Close," near Robin Hood. "Haphazard," in the 50 acres field, going to Middleton. The "Hoops," near Middleton. "Wood" and "Shepherd," near Messrs. Charlesworth's farm. The "Brig" Pit, near the wagon way, not far off "Jaw Bones." The "Lowery," from its position near the incline of the "run," or wagon way, but afterwards named "Grimes" Pit, on account of a number of Grahams (vulgarly called Grime) working at it, and who, afterwards, along with others, were killed here in the fearful explosion of 1797.

The first pits sunk by Messrs. Charlesworth in this district were the "Speedwell," (now an air pit) above Mr. T. Oliver's. The "Valley," at the back, also the "Jane."† In connection with this pit is an incident

\* Old miners believe it was the "Rainbow."

† Charlesworth's first pit is said to have been the "Jane."

in the life of Sammy Hick,\* the village blacksmith, in 1824. Sammy had a strong impression early one morning that he must go to some pit, and he could not shake it off. He told his wife, Mattie; but she wished to dissuade him from going by saying, "We've plenty of 'sleek' in the smithy, and we've no orders for coals;" still he felt the inward monitor urging him on. He yoked his black galloway, "Jack," and started from Micklefield. On the journey he endeavoured to pull up at the pits on the road, but the animal resisted and refused to stop; at last Sammy gave it the full reins, and it made its way to this pit. It so happened that, that very morning, a poor lad, named Isaac Walton, a hanger-on at the pit bottom, had met with a fearful accident. A sheeting-board had fallen from the side of the pit, and in the force occasioned by the fall, it penetrated into the body of this unfortunate lad, who was, of course, in fearful agony. They took him into the cabin; soon after they sent for Dr. Poskett to extricate the board; but Sammy coming up at this moment forbade them doing so until he had prayed with the young man. And it is said the departing soul found pardon and forgiveness, and that the sufferer, before death, became converted, and left signs of divine acceptance.

John Bilborough was killed by falling down the "Jane" Pit.

The "Pasture" Pit, near Spiby Row. "Sand" Pit, near Pontefract Road. "Pearsy," named after Samuel Pearson, who kept the farm now in Mr. Webster's hands. "Mill" Pit, near where the windmill used to stand.

The names of old shafts sunk by the Fentons at Lofthouse are†— "Swift" Pit, "Eight Acres," "Pond," "Lingley," "Bye," "Bank." Afterwards, Charlesworth and others, previous to their proprietorship of Rothwell Haigh, sunk "Kiln Garth," "Primrose," "Cowslip," "Old Chance," "New Chance;" these were from 40 to 70 yards deep. There were also "Carter Teal" and "Wood" Pits; and at Lingwell-Gate, "Aaron Green" Pit, where four men were killed. The "Engine" and "Bye" Pits at Carlton; "Pit Field," "Shay" Pit, "Green End" and "Bushy Cliffe."

The circumference of the pit mouths used to be about 7 feet 6 inches, but many are now 20 feet. Eight to ten men worked in a pit.‡ Seventy years ago the mining families of Rothwell could be easily counted, there were only about six.

\* Old Methodists can remember Sammy, when preaching at Rothwell, narrate the circumstances in his own peculiar but powerful way.

† Thomas Fenton sunk an engine pit near "Cock Pit" houses in 1800.

‡ At "Beeston Bed" Pit, about 250 yards deep, more than 200 miners are employed in full time.

The Haggases, Handforths, Ellises, Dobsons, Westmorlands, and Wrights.

Thomas Smith, butcher and farmer of Rothwell Haigh, sunk some shallow pits in his own field in Methley Lane, adjoining the Mexbro' property, about sixty-five years ago. A Sally Armitage used to have a lot of asses carrying coal in panniers. This was the early means of conveyance. The lane leading out of Wakefield Road from the Haigh to Middleton was called "Asses Lane," for the reason that many carried coals in that way, and there were sheds, &c., where they could rest and refresh the animals.

#### EARLY COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS AND ACCIDENTS, &c.

Mentioned in the Church Registers are the following:—

- " 1745. *Alexander Rotherforth*, buried ye 26th day of Nov., from 'Sow laine' head,\* minor, kild. by ye firey damp."
  - " 1758, Dec. 21. *Jeremiah Briggs* killed at Coal Pitt."
  - " 1764. *William Prince*, minor, buried from Bell isle, the 29th day of July, slain in coal pitt; also *Benjn. Chadwick*, son of James Chadwick, buried the 30th day from 'Carr Laine'; also *Nicholas*, son of Nicholas Brook, killed in the Coale Pitts, buried from 'Carr Laine.' "
  - " 1774, Aug. 16. *Seal Wilkinson*, from Middleton Wood, slain in the Pitt."
  - " 1778, Nov. 7. *Joseph Butterfield*, a miner, slain at Middleton Coal Pitts."
  - " 1779, Jan. *William Robshaw*, a 'colyer,' slaine at Mr. Fenton's Coal Pitts; also *Matthew Chadwick*, from Carr Laine; also on July 23rd, *George Olden*, from Carleton, killed by coal damp."
  - " 1780, Jan. 3rd. *Jeremiah Todd*, aged 42, Rothwell.  
*Thomas Holmes*, aged 62, Carr Laine.
- Slain in Mr. Fenton's Pitts, with five more, on the 1st instant."
- " 1783, June 14. *John Foster*, aged 23. { miners, by accident, came  
" " " Henry Wilson, aged 10, } to their deaths."  
" " 15. *William Carr*, aged 19,
  - " 1794, April 30. *Thomas Normington*, accidentally killed by fire damp."
  - " Jan. 16. *Thomas Johnson*, killed by falling into a coal pit."
  - " 1795, May 14. *William Todd*, killed in a coal pit."
  - " July. *Jonathan Ward*, killed by a fall of earth, Carleton."
  - " Aug. 12. *William Thompson*, killed in a coal pit by the damp."

\* Near Middleton Liberty.

In 1797, on April 19th, at the "Lowrey" Pit, afterwards named "Grime's," at Rothwell Haigh, thirteen men and boys were launched into eternity by an explosion of fire-damp. Amongst those who fatally suffered were the family of the Grahams, consisting of a father and five sons, named *Tom, John, Bill, Ashur, and Longbottom*. They were Carr Lane people, and were all laid out in one low thatched cottage near the Railway Bridge, a most heart-rending sight. The moanings of the widow and bereaved mother are most pathetically described in a number of verses, published in 1840, by a Reuben Holder, in a tract recounting other colliery misfortunes. Amongst others who lost their lives on the same occasion, and were buried at Rothwell Church, on the 21st of April, were: *James*, son of John *Hopton*, aged 9 years, of Carlton; *Thomas Ratcliffe*, aged 37 years, Carr Lane; *John*, son of Richard *Wilson*, aged 19 years, Rothwell; *Robert*, son of Joseph *Wood*, aged 15 years, Carr Lane; *James Wright*, aged 45 years, Rothwell. It is said some of the *Haggasses* perished also.

In the preface to Holder's pamphlet just alluded to, in speaking of himself, he states "that he had been requested to publish the accounts by a number of friends in the neighbourhood." He says:—"I was brought up as a collier, and have several times narrowly escaped being killed by the fire-damp, falls of earth, &c. I was born at Hunslet Carr, near Leeds, on October 31st, 1797. I went to drive a gin-horse at the top of a pit when but five years old; and at eight I went to work in the pit. In my childhood my parents gave me the name of Samuel, and so I was called until I was twenty years of age, never having been baptised in the usual form; but on Easter Sunday, at Rothwell Church, for a joke, I determined to be baptised, and had two godfathers and two godmothers. I then received the name of Reuben, which I have been called from that time." Then follow twenty verses, recounting the dangers of the collier's employment.

**THE EXPLOSION AT THE GOSFORTH DAY HOLE PIT, AT MIDDLETON, JAN. 12TH, 1825.**—"Near Leeds, between Middleton and Bell-Isle, there is a large hill, at the base of which the above colliery is situated. A tunnel has been driven under the hill for the distance of 1400 yards, sufficiently large to admit a horse and waggon. At the end of this tunnel a steam engine, with all the things necessary to work it, such as engine-house, boiler, firing-place, &c., have been fitted up, in the same manner as those which are fitted up above ground. Near this engine has been sunk, 80 yards deep, up which the engine draws the coal. At the time the explosion took place the men were working at the distance of 700 yards from the bottom of this shaft, in a horizontal direction, and the men were working shifts, that is, one set of men and boys go in the morning and work until noon, and the other set commences at noon and continues until night. The explosion took place about seven o'clock in the evening, and is supposed to have been caused by one of the men taking off his lamp top to

light his pipe, when the deadly gas took fire, and instantaneously killed twenty-four poor men and boys, and so severely injured two others that they died in a short time afterwards at the Leeds Infirmary. A number of the other men and boys who were in the pit at the same time were severely burnt and otherwise seriously injured. When the bodies of all the sufferers had been recovered with the exception of two, whose names were Joseph Haigh and John Ramsden, the mouth of the pit was obliged to be closed for five weeks to smother the fire in the pit occasioned by the explosion. At the end of that time the bodies of these two poor colliers were found and restored to their unhappy relatives. The following is a list of the sufferers' names:—

	Age.		Age.
1. Benj. Broadhead,	34.	14. James Drewery,	18.
2. Peter Hammill,	32.	15. W. Heald,	18. } brothers.
3. Joseph Haigh,	40.	16. James Heald,	12. }
4. William Wood,	34.	17. John Ramsden,	21.
5. John Procter,	48.	18. Joseph Dixon,	8.
6. Joshua Liversege,	45.	19. Benjamin Wood,	12.
7. Richard Foster,	34.	20. John Ambler,	5.
8. Benjamin Wood,	42.	21. Samuel Cromack,	10.
9. George Wright,	27.	22. Samuel Ramsden,	10.
10. Luke Normanton,	27.	23. James Foster,	8.
11. James Wood,	22.	24. Sanderson Anford,	19.
12. John Ramsden,	22 } bros.	25. George Hewitt,	21 } brothers.
13. Kalita Ramsden,	10 }	26. Samuel Hewitt,	13 }

The first eleven were married men, leaving wives, and twenty-seven children fatherless.

At the "Haphazard," or Moss Pit, the first two men, after Messrs. Charlesworth took the colliery, who were killed, were Charles Arundale, of Ouzelwell Green, and Robert Blakey, of "Low Goslem." They fell down whilst repairing the pit side, on the 18th July, 1822; they had been members of the Foresters' Club, and a large procession, dressed in the ancient regalia, walked at the funeral on the Sunday after.

In 1838, on February 16th, a very serious explosion of fire-damp took place at Robin Hood Colliery, belonging to the Messrs. Charlesworth, by which several persons lost their lives and others were severely injured. Amongst the sufferers were James Ward, Rothwell, aged 26, buried 22nd February; Charles Arundel, Carr Lane, aged 16, buried 23rd February; David Hopton, Rothwell, aged 27, buried 24th February.

At Victoria Pit,\* Rothwell Haigh, January 24th, 1840, seven men and

\* At first named "Garden" Pit. The present name given in commemoration of our Queen's accession.

boys were killed, and several others were severely burnt and wounded. It appears the men were engaged in taking away the props which support the top end, near the place where the men were getting the coal, and is called by them "borrowing wood." The props are set in rows, and as the men proceed they take away the furthest rows, and the top usually falls and fills up the space to the props left standing; but at this pit the top had not fallen when the props had been removed for a considerable distance, and in this open space the noxious gas had gathered. On this day, however, as the men were taking away some of the props the whole fell in, driving out such a volume of dust that they could not see each other, and all the candles were put out but one that Samuel Worth held, at which the gas took fire, and caused such a dreadful catastrophe. The names and ages of the unfortunate sufferers are as follows:—Thomas Hopton, aged 52; Edward Bell, aged 12; George Lister, aged 19; Samuel Ward, aged 9; John Worth, aged 15; William Worth, aged 13; and Samuel Worth, near 40, the father of the two last, and who left a wife and six children to lament his loss. He is not yet found,\* and when the gas exploded it set fire to the pillars of coal which supported the top, thereby causing it to fall a distance of 120 yards, through which, at great hazard, the men are digging a burgate to endeavour to seek him at the "tiffie." This was written eight weeks after the accident."

Explosion at Waterloo Colliery, January 31st, 1840. One week only had elapsed since the misfortune at Rothwell Haigh when a dreadful one took place at the Waterloo Colliery, which killed three men, whose names were Joseph Taylor, Jonathan Robinson, and Abraham Hargreaves. It appears that this accident was caused by some persons neglecting to place properly a canvas sheet that guided the current of air in the right direction from one pit to the other, thereby causing the foul air to accumulate during the night, and on the men going with their candles to work in the morning it instantly exploded.

Eleven verses, of the usual stamp, are printed in remembrance of this sad event; also fifty-eight verses were composed by Francis Stainer, of Rothwell, blind basket-maker and shoemaker, a prolific rhymester, on the same subject.

Died from injuries received in Robin Hood Pit: Reuben Lunn, of Lofthouse, buried April 1st, 1846; John Beckwith, Carlton, buried May 3rd, 1846.

In 1854, at the Farm Pit, Newmarket, about thirteen persons were killed. Amongst them John Chadwick and his two sons; others were burnt, and the rest smothered with after damp.

In 1828 Rothwell Haigh Colliery was flooded, some old walls having

\* Was never found. No doubt his body would be calcined to a cinder.

been broken through. Messrs. Edmund Dawson and John Westmorland were respectively top and bottom stewards, and in consequence of supposed neglect in this matter they were dismissed.

In 1839 Rothwell Haigh Colliery was only partly wrought, and a proposal was brought before a vestry meeting of overseers to ease Messrs. Charlesworth of some portion of the poor rate; but it was not carried.

#### IRON-STONE AT ROTHWELL HAIGH.

An iron bed, about 2 feet 6 inches, is met with on the coal head, and is of a good quality, but not sufficiently thick to warrant much attention. Dross and clinkers have been found near Webster's Farm and at the Low Shops in sinking shafts and in opening out "old workings," seeming to indicate iron smelting in this quarter. Furthermore, in the Lansdowne MS., page 900, William Vavasour, of Hazlewood, Esq., makes many observations on the appearance of the country during the progress of Henry VIII. to the City of York, in the thirty-eighth year of his reign, 1546. Amongst other things he mentions an "iron forge on *Rothwell Haigh*" (see Cartwright's Chapters of Yorkshire History). In 1815-6 there was an iron foundry at Low Shops in Fenton's time, and old cannon and cannon balls were lying about.

#### DURATION OF MINERS' LIVES.

In a volume of Transactions prepared for the National Association of Miners, held at Leeds, in 1863,\* the following remarks were made, and valuable, but startling figures quoted.

It is a distressing fact that coal miners are daily subject to pain and suffering not entailed upon any other class of artizans, over which one might wish to draw a veil. This fact is fully borne out by Radcliffe's Tables. Speaking of coal miners, he says:—"This class of lives shows a very large amount of average sickness at every period, and increased sick-

\* The Law Section's Report was written by Mr. Thomas Stephenson, of Rothwell, who possesses both a practical and theoretical knowledge of mines.

ness with advance of years. From the very nature of the employment this was to be expected, but not to such an extent as appears from the results. At the age of 20, miners experience an average sickness of 40 per cent. more than the general class; at the age of 30,—70 per cent.; at the age of 40,—78 per cent.; at the age of 50,—76 per cent.; at the age of 60,—53 per cent. more than the general class of lives. The average amount of sickness experienced by miners for the period of life 20–60 is 95 weeks, showing an excess of 67 per cent." The very valuable Registrar General's tables on miners are fully corroborative of the above statement. The undeniable and astounding fact is that the poor miner's life lasts about 27·7 years, whilst that of the agricultural labourer is 43·3, in other plainer words, the lives of the miners, in addition to excessive sickness and diminished strength, are shortened by an amount equivalent to more than half their working lives.

A few old miners in this parish have lived to nearly 80 years of age. Only lately Joseph Ward died at the age of 78, and Robert Wood at 78. We have examples still remaining: Joseph Westmorland, 72; William Wright, 73. The former has worked in the pit fifty years; the latter sixty years. One of our present oldest men, Jonathan Ward, was at one period of his life engaged in this employment.

Amongst the great colliery firms of the West Riding may be mentioned Messrs. Pope and Pearson Limited, Normanton, Messrs. Bowers, Allerton Collieries Limited, the Manston Collieries, Leeds, the Sharlston Collieries, Norman-ton, Messrs. Charlesworth, Wakefield and Lofthouse. In the West Riding there are 491 collieries, and their output for 1873, 15,311,778 tons. In the getting of this amount of coals 57,523 persons were employed; 45,828 underground workers; 11,695 worked above. During 1873, 115 persons were killed in the mines of the West Riding, i.e., one death to every 133,146 tons of coal raised.—*Leeds Mercury*.\*

\* The quantity of coal in the neighbourhood of Rothwell Haigh is not at present known. I may say that the seams of coal we are now getting are Beeston Bed, Rothwell Haigh or Middleton Main coal, Furnace coal, Haigh Main, and are of excellent quality.—W.M. HARGREAVES, Colliery Manager, 1876.

## COAL-MINERS' WAGES AND WORKING HOURS.

On January 2nd, 1787, this advertisement appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* :—

**COAL MINING—A CAUTION.**—The colliers at Middleton Colliery, belonging to Charles Brandling, Esq., having, without any reasonable cause, refused to work the said colliery unless an advance be made to their wages, it is thought necessary to inform the public that part of such colliers have constantly earned two shillings and sixpence or three shillings per day, by working eight hours in each day *only*, and that none of them, even men of sixty years of age and upwards, earn less than two shillings per day, yet, notwithstanding such *high* wages, the colliers have *combined*, left, and have laid up the said colliery. These circumstances are published to prevent the said colliers from imposing upon the public by asking charity under false pretences.—RICHARD HUMBLE, Middleton, 9th Dec., 1786.

About sixty-five years ago it was called a good day's work to fill eighteen corves at 2d., equal to 3s., and two of slack at 1d., equal to 2d., total 3s. 2d.

In 1816 colliers could earn 18s. per week of six days, and if they kept at it the full week, as an inducement, Mr. Fenton gave them 4s. more, called "taking brass." Top-men had 13s. weekly; farm labourers 13s. It will be well to consider the prices of commodities about this time. In 1804 soap was 10d. per lb., candles 10d. per lb. 1804–16,\* flour 4s. to 7s. per stone (one guinea per bushel), American flour was 7s. 3d. per stone, common tea 6d. to 1s. per oz. "Bohea" tea 16s. per lb., sugar 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb., salt 5d. per lb. *Drapery*: gingham handkerchiefs 1s. to 1s. 3d. each, moleskin trousers 18s. per pair, dress print 2s. 6d. to 3s. per yard, and so on. Common drink for working people was "herb" tea. *Eatables*: potatoes and salt. Herrings were a luxury, and salt fish was sparingly mixed with other food. Oatmeal porridge and rye bread were common. Farm

\* 1816, a wretched season, the worst harvest ever known, the rain never ceasing during the whole period.

labourers' hours were from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., with no set meal hours allowed.

In 1822 another Middleton advertisement appears:—

"COLLIERS."—Wanted, a number of colliers and hurriers at Middleton Colliery. Good workmen will meet with liberal encouragement.

The following is a faithful statement of earnings, taken from the "wage books."

#### COLLIERS GETTING COALS.

1822.	Days.	£ s. d.	Days.	£ s. d.	Days.	£ s. d.
June 14.	12	2 11 2½	12	2 4 6		
" 28.	12	2 12 10	10	2 0 9	3	0 9 0
July 12.	12	2 18 6	12	3 6 4	11	1 17 0
" 26.	12	2 7 11	12	2 12 5	12	2 8 3
Aug. 9.	8	2 0 5	12	3 0 3	12	3 0 4
Total...	56	12 10 10½	58	13 4 3	38	7 14 7

This is during the summer months.

#### HURRIERS GETTING COALS.

1822.	Days.	£ s. d.	Days.	£ s. d.	Days.	£ s. d.
June 14.	12	1 18 11	12	1 4 0	12	1 4 0
" 28.	12	1 17 4	12	1 8 1	12	1 8 1
July 12.	12	1 15 0	11	1 3 6	12	1 6 8
" 26.	12	1 15 3	12	1 7 9	12	1 7 6
Aug. 9.	12	1 17 6	12	1 10 6	12	1 11 0
Total...	60	9 4 0	54	6 13 10	60	6 17 3

The colliers at Middleton have houses, gardens, and coals for twenty shillings a-year each man, besides rates of every description paid for them, which I consider is full *four* shillings per week over and above their earnings. Middleton Colliery, 14th August, 1822.

J. BLENKINSOPP.

At the "Pasture" Pit forty to fifty years ago it was a hard day's work to get 26 corves of 6 cwt. each for 3s. 6d., working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.. In 1876 a miner could get in a day 3 tons of thin coal, 2 ft. 18 in., for which he received 2s. 6d. per ton for labour; of deep coal, 4 ft. 6 in., 14 tubs, or 4 ton 6 cwt., at 1s. 1d. per ton.

#### PRICES OF COAL.

In 1816 house coal averaged 4s. to 4s. 6d. per ton. In 1834, from Parson's History of Leeds is extracted "that at *Branding's, Middleton Beds*, the deep coal is delivered at Hunslet Lane staith at 16s. per waggon, containing 24 corves, weighing 45 cwt."

The little, or doggy coal, in which there is a slight admixture of metallic matter, at 9s. per waggon.

At Thorpe Hall (Waterloo) Collieries, the soil belongs to Lady Gordon, who recently succeeded to the estates of the Marchioness of Hertford; the coals are the property of William Fenton, Esq.

Deep coal 11s. per waggon of 34 cwt., little 8s., slack 5s. Some of these pits have been open for nineteen years.

Rothwell Haigh Pits. Deep coal (three pits) sold at 2s. per tippler, weighing 5½ cwt. Little, or top coal, at the depth of 100 yards, sold at 1s. 4d. per tippler. The soil belongs to Lord Stourton, but the coals to J. and J. Charlesworth, Esqs. These coals are of a very superior quality, being bright, ardent, and durable."

In 1848, October, deep coal was 3½d. per cwt., or 5s. 1½d. per ton. In 1866 best coal was 7s. 1d. per ton.

From the *Leeds Mercury*, October 12th, 1872, in a letter by Mr. George Tatham, of Leeds, are these figures in reference to West Riding collieries.

#### PRICES OF COAL AT THE PIT'S MOUTH.

	1850.	Aug. 29, 1872.	Sept. 4, 1872.
Best .....	5s. od.	11s. 6d.	16s. od.
Seconds .....	4s. 6d.	10s. 6d.	15s. 6d.
Thirds .....	3s. 6d.	9s. 6d.	14s. 6d.
Slack .....	1s. od.	6s. 6d.	9s. od.
Average.....	3s. 6d.	9s. 6d.	13s. 7½d.

Miner's Wages.. 2s. od. (about) 2s. 7d. (about) 2s. 7d.  
 Coalowner's profit ..... 2s. 0½d. ... 6s. 2d.  
 Percentage on sale price ..... 23½ per cent. 47¾ per ct.  
 Also in September of the same year Mr. John Holmes submits the subjoined estimates:—

COST OF COAL PER TON AT THE PIT'S MOUTH, WEST YORKSHIRE.  
 Advance

	Best.	Seconds.	Thirds.	Slack.	Average.	per ton.		
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1850...	5	0	4	6	3	6	1	0
Oct. 12, 1858...	7	6	6	6	5	0	2	0
Sept. 30, 1871...	7	6	6	3	5	3	2	3
Oct. 1, 1871...	8	6	7	3	6	3	2	9
Jan. 1, 1872...	9	6	8	3	7	3	3	9
May, 1, 1872...	9	6	8	3	7	3	4	6
June 1, 1872...	11	6	10	6	9	6	6	9
Sept. 4, 1872...	16	6	15	6	14	6	9	0
							13	7½
							4	1½
								10 2

Making an advance of nearly 400 per cent. in twenty-one years.

In 1735 coals in the Pool at London were from 24s. to 26s. per chaldron, or about 1s. per cwt.; 1740, 30s. per chaldron, or 1s. 2½d. per cwt. At Newcastle, in July, 1618, the value and importance of "sea coal" was getting appreciated, and the price rose from 5s. per chaldron to 9s., *i.e.*, from about 2½d. per cwt. to 4½d.; and Welsh coal from 3s. to 6s. 8d. per chaldron, about 1½d. to 3½d. per cwt. (*Gent. Mag.*) In 1750, at Morley, house coal was 1s. per ton; in 1790, 2s. 6d. In August, 1799, on account of monopoly and exorbitancy of retail dealers, short measure, and storing up, also coals being exported in large quantities to Russia, Sweden, or Poland, and to the Mediterranean, in consequence of Lord Nelson's victory, there was a great scarcity in England. During the frost they rose to the enormous price of five to six guineas per chaldron, or 3s. 6d. per bushel,—the poor could scarcely obtain them. In 1753, at Bristol, there were collier's riots,—the poor people clamoured for bread.

STRIKES, &c.

In 1819 the miners had an Union, but Messrs. Charlesworth, when they became possessed of the collieries in 1821, did not approve of it, and would not employ Union men. This caused it to be broken up.

In 1844-5 nearly all the colliers of this district, except Middleton, struck on account of reduction in wages. The Rev. R. H. Brandling was so pleased with this that on his visit to Middleton, 11th November, 1844, he made all his employees a dinner and a tea for their wives, with a present of 2s. 6d. each. His servants presented him with a silver cup on the occasion as a mark of esteem.

In 1858 there was a general strike, lasting over forty weeks. Waterloo Colliery was shut up. Mr. Thomas John Fenton, proprietor, felt its effects, and became nearly ruined by it.

THE FENTON FAMILY.

William,\* who did not live to share with his brother Thomas the increasing prosperity of the coal enterprise, died in 1774, when only middle aged, being 55 years old. It would appear that Thomas carried on this business alone up to a certain time, and that James was most interested in the glass manufacture. In 1780 they were the two principal residents of Rothwell Haigh, and each paid the tax on four male servants in that year. The two latter, besides being employed in the trades mentioned, were yeomen, and also held considerable land. James had Glasshouse Farm and also some portion of the land in Lofthouse, cultivating about 250 acres. Thomas, at Rothwell Haigh, Carlton, and Lofthouse, had in his possession upwards of 400 acres. As an indication of the important position he held, he was awarded, in the Rothwell Haigh Enclosure, in consideration of previous claims, upwards of 25 acres. He was certainly a very large farmer and breeder of cattle. It is reported that he had often 1000 sheep, and the shearing time was something to be remembered. For drawing purposes he used bullocks; he

\* His uncle, of the same name, was twice Mayor of Leeds, in 1733 and 1747.

had for the transit of coal, &c., a quantity of canal boats plying to and fro. He kept a most liberal table and brewed an enormous quantity of beer. Latterly he became remarkably stout and unwieldy. In the meantime William\* and Thomas,† his two sons, were growing up to maturity. The former was an excellent classical scholar, and it is said had an audience and conversation with the Pope. His sons were actively engaged in the business and took the management. Mr. Thomas Fenton, sen., lived to 85 years of age. He died on Sunday morning, August 8th, 1813. In a newspaper at the time it is recorded that "his inflexible integrity in commercial life, his exemplary conduct in every domestic relation, the cheerfulness of his disposition and the benevolence of his heart, will endear his memory to his family and friends, and his death will be deplored by that district over which he so long and so worthily presided." His outer coffin was of stone, taken out of his own quarry near "Cousins Pit," now almost filled up. He lay in state nine days, and was buried, at Hunslet Chapel, by five o'clock in the morning, in order to avoid commotion. A flat stone is placed in the churchyard, at the front, in memory of him.

It was left to Mr. Fenton's eldest son, William, to develop more completely the coal mining resources of Rothwell Haigh. In his hands coal getting became the staple trade of the district, and Fenton's "hard heads," a prizeable kind of "house coal," became famous throughout England, and the Fentons were really the coal kings of the whole district. William Fenton, Esq., accumulated riches and bought much land. Besides the Rothwell Haigh pits he had some at Methley, Wakefield-Outwood, and at Rotherham, near Carr House. He bought an estate, called New Brinsley, in Derbyshire, and started a colliery there entirely under his

\* He was born 20th April, 1764, and was *privately* baptised on the 23rd. From this it may be supposed that he was a delicate infant.

† Baptised 4th November, at Rothwell, 1765. In manhood he lived at Lofthouse.

own personal management. He had property and land at Woodhouse Hill. He purchased part of the advowson of Wakefield Parish Church. He had a farm at Woodlesford, main of Homlsley, called "Wood Ends Farm." He was a bachelor, and in appearance a spare thin man of middle height, having white hair. He was very prompt and straightforward in his actions and abstemious and economical in his habits, in short the model of a business man. He would not in any way be imposed upon. He never entered into a law suit without due consideration and with the belief that he was in the right, and he was always successful. At one time of his life he was a great rider on horseback, and travelled in this way hundreds of miles at a stretch, seeking orders or making bargains. On account of much riding his knees became weak, and he had in his old age to be assisted in and out of his postchaise, which was driven by a mounted postilion. He removed from the Haigh to Thorpe Hall on the Hill, and soon after bought the Waterloo coal of Lady Irwin. The first sods of this colliery were thrown off on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo, in 1815, hence the name. Mr. Fenton built cottages and a school-house for the work-people on the Thorpe-Stapleton side of the canal, intending to erect them at first on the Haigh side, but on account of a dispute with the Rothwell overseers took the other course.

William's brother, Thomas, does not appear to have made headway in business. He seems to have died comparatively young. He left three sons: Thomas John, James, and Kirkby Fenton. It is said that James was drowned when a youth. All of them were brought up by their uncle at Thorpe Hall. Thomas received a clerical education. He was his uncle's favourite, but deeply grieved him by his marriage, taking to wife one who was considered much beneath him, so that Mr. Fenton left him without any fortune; it was all willed to Kirkby Fenton, then a mere boy, but with the proviso that Thomas should never feel want.

In 1820 the lease of the coal belonging to Lord Stourton

had lapsed. Mr. Fenton and his steward, Mr. Twaites, were careless in renewing it, believing that no one was able or would be willing to pay the valuation likely to be demanded, so extensive were the works. Seeing the wealth accumulated by the Fentons, Lord Stourton asked a larger price. This was objected to. In the meantime Messrs. Joseph and John Charlesworth, a rising firm, having already become owners of pits at Wrenthorpe, and were working the Haigh Moor seam, came forward, and backed by Wakefield gentlemen, paid the valuation, and agreed to the terms of the new lease. This was on the 8th of January, 1820.

William Fenton, Esq., died April 7th, 1837, aged 73 years, and was buried in his own ground at Wakefield Church. He was immensely rich, said to have been worth one and a-half millions of real and personal estate.

For a few years longer Mr. Kirkby Fenton, possessed of this vast wealth, carried on the colliery at Waterloo (taking into partnership Mr. Leather), and cultivated the various farms, and resided at Leventhorpe Hall. Seeing, however, the destitute condition of his elder brother Thomas, he took him into partnership at Waterloo. The partnership, however, was eventually dissolved. Mr. Leather commenced at Astley, and Mr. Thomas was left in sole possession of Waterloo. Mr. Kirkby Fenton, who was not well adapted for business, and of a somewhat impulsive nature, disposed of all his possessions in this part. He sold Mr. Oddie "Wood Ends" Farm. His property at Woodhouse Hill, Rothwell Haigh, Wakefield, &c., passed into other hands. He now bought an estate in Leicestershire, of 536 acres, named Charnwood Forest, for a hunting box, called One Barrow Lodge. He planted the tract of land with 100,000 forest trees, and thereby greatly improved and beautified the formerly rugged district. He married Miss Foster, of Winckersley, a clergyman's daughter. He had sporting proclivities, and lost much in this way. He sold this estate, purchased a smaller one in Warwickshire, got into difficul-

ties, and went abroad. Returned, and died at Leamington House, Warwickshire, a few years since.

Mr. Thomas John Fenton, a handsome man and a kind master, had it is said to contend with family extravagances and the strike, and, not having sufficient capital to fall back upon, could not withstand it. He died it is said broken hearted, but he was very stout, and had an incurable complaint which helped to shorten his days. He had lived at Thorpe Stapleton House, near Waterloo. His effects were sold, and he terminated life, at Springfield Place, Leeds, in 1866.

Messrs. Charlesworth, the enterprising successors of the Fentons, have, by the outlay of capital and the employment of the latest and best machinery, far surpassed them in developing coal mining in this district. Their career hitherto is well known to most middle-aged persons of the present day, but in passing it is only right to say that they have endeavoured by all means possible to ensure the welfare and safety of their *employés*, and by their uniform consideration, goodwill, and liberality, coupled with a careful avoidance of disagreeable misunderstandings, they have gained the goodwill of all who have worked for them. In conclusion, the management of Messrs. Charlesworths' pits is worthy of commendation and imitation.

#### THE STONE TRADE.

The next important branch of trade to that of coal in this district is the quarrying and getting of stone.

No doubt for ages stone has been procured in a limited degree for ecclesiastical edifices, monuments, and fortified erections of the neighbourhood. After wood became scarcer the timbered and plastered houses were less common, consequently stone for building purposes increased in demand. Several abandoned quarries have been lately reworked at

greater depths. There is one unmolested in Quarry Hill, having top-soil overgrown with grass and containing large old trees, proving that it is many years since it was excavated.\* Like the early coal proprietors, the stone-getters did not penetrate very deep into the strata, and only obtained the top brown or grey-stone, simply because they had not then the appliances and tackling to reach great depths or to evacuate the water.

It may be affirmed that it is only within the last fifty years that this important industry has been resumed with spirit and carried on with enterprise beyond local requirements.

The quality of the stone is geologically termed of the Sandstone Formation, but the trade term is free-stone. A *blue* stone now got, called from this cast of colour, is very prizeable, being fine grained and capable of a smooth surface. It is used chiefly for interior purposes, chimney-pieces, head-stones, &c. Large sawn slabs of it are frequently sent to London by rail or water. The original bed of this stone lies at great depths, though it has been found not far from the surface. It was first discovered by George Burnill, who sunk a well to get at it, about twenty-nine years ago; but he was only able to obtain small quantities, not having sufficient pumping power to get rid of the water and so open it out. The primitive pumping power was obtained by means of the precarious windmill, also men in relays often worked with a force-pump all through the night, raising the water into wooden spouts and channels. It is thought that William Owen was one of the first to erect a pump worked with steam power, he also used a wooden sawing frame. Thomas and Robert Whitehead put down an iron sawing frame, about 1856, and other steam pumps. Still the blue stone was not extensively worked.

\* At Woodlesford formerly was a way called "Meg Lane," down by Mr. Oddie's house, and the "Boot and Shoe" Inn, which led to an old stone wharf.

Mr. Joseph Slater about twenty years ago improved upon existing methods. He erected more powerful pumps, and thereby got thoroughly upperhand of the water. He was thus enabled to more completely bare the valuable bed of blue stone and obtain from it immense quantities. Under his management a great impetus was given to the stone trade generally, and large orders flowed in from new quarters.

At *Oulton* the former quarry owners or merchants were Thomas Abbey, William Owen, Joseph Sharp, James Rhodes, George Burnill, Joseph Slater, Robert Whitehead, Silas Abbey, John Wrigglesworth, and William Langstaff. The present are Langstaff Brothers, Cato Abbey, Robert Whitehead, Francis Ward (blue stone quarries), Israel Rhodes, B. Wood Higgins, James Rhodes, William Abbey (grey or brown stone), situated on the Woodlesford side.

Some of the quarries are 33 yards deep and are very large chasms. The workers are called "getters," "scrapplers," "labourers," "hewers." Wages about twenty-five years ago, even for the best men, were only 19s. weekly. The number of men employed is about 140.

#### ROBIN HOOD.

The quarries here have not been worked so long as at *Oulton*. At first they were commenced at Robin Hood, where the top stone was got out, but after a number of years were chiefly transferred to Thorpe Lane. James Verity was one of the first quarry-owners at Robin Hood, about 1810. John Armitage started on March 1st, 1824. The stone was got, in the first instance, where Mr. George Armitage's house now stands. The present owners are George Armitage & Sons, John and William Armitage, Charles Denham & Co. (formerly Benjn. Gill). About 150 men of various degrees of labour are employed. The Thorpe Lane or Robin Hood blue stone is considered to be of a finer grain and more compact than that of *Oulton*.

In the lane leading from Thorpe to Lofthouse is an old stone quarry overgrown.

### THE ESHALD WELL BREWERY, WOODLESFORD, NEAR LEEDS.

Amongst the most important of the Leeds, and indeed of the Yorkshire breweries generally, stands the Eshald Well, or Oulton Brewery, situated at Woodlesford, adjacent to the Midland Railway, within six miles of the flourishing town of Leeds, the property of Messrs. Henry Bentley and Co. This brewery was founded in the year 1828, by Mr. Henry Bentley, the father of the members of the present firm. Henry Bentley was the son of the late Timothy Bentley, of Lockwood Brewery, near Huddersfield, which was commenced in the year 1794, so that it will be readily conceded the Bentleys are a brewing family. In the various departments of the brewery upwards of 200 hands are employed, exclusive of those engaged at the agencies established at Bradford, York, Hull, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Middlesborough, and Birmingham. To the north of the brewery, on the turnpike road leading from Wakefield to York, are situated the gasworks of the Messrs. Bentley, which are not only used in lighting up the establishment of the firm, but also supplying gas to the adjoining villages of Oulton and Woodlesford, as well as to the Midland Railway-station at the latter town.—(Extracted from the *Licensed Victuallers' Guardian*, December, 1875.)

Mr. Henry Bentley, sen., removed from Lockwood, near Huddersfield, and, induced by the splendid water of Eshald Well, commenced a brewing business at Woodlesford. He died in 1848. His son Henry, the head of the present firm, was born in 1832, and is consequently in his forty-fifth year. When a young man he commenced to take an active part in the business, and since then it has gone on increasing in magnitude every year. He was one of the munificent founders of All Saints' Church, Woodlesford, and continues, along with Mrs. Bentley, to take great interest in its welfare. He is also a liberal patron of the recently-established Woodlesford and Oulton Flower Show, which from its commencement has been held in his own beautiful grounds.

### OLD PUBLIC HOUSES.

Before railways were formed, and the powerful and swift locomotive engine invented, traffic had to be conveyed upon the existing bye and trunk roads, causing them to be busy and much frequented. These old roads were in many places narrow and roundabout, and often kept in wretched condition, consequently the progress of the traveller was slow and somewhat tedious. *Inns* were then of *real* importance as houses of accommodation for tired man and beast, they were also useful as a communicating link between friends at a distance, where letters or parcels might be left in the care of the landlord, and where business of all kinds could be transacted, in fact they served as the post-office and money-order office of the period. These inns or public-houses were generally situated at prominent angles of the road, and at convenient distances, hence we find several buildings known formerly to have been used for this business now in somewhat out-of-way quarters, but if we take into consideration the direction of the old roads it will be readily seen that they were suitably placed for the purpose.

At least seventy years ago at the present cottages, on the top of Bell Hill, a little elevated from the road, was the "Blue Ball," kept by a man vulgarly named "Cappy Roo."

At Holmsley, near the corner of "Pick Pocket" Lane, was the "Needless Inn." The building is now occupied as cottage dwellings.\* The former public-house was kept by a Benjamin Hep. At one time it might have been a useful house of refreshment for boatmen and travellers, when, however, Mr. Robert Cooper, who rebuilt it, wished to get the license renewed, the magistrates refused, on the ground that, seeing the new and better road was made, causing other houses to spring up, this one

\* In connection with one of these cottages is a remarkable "dungeon" cellar, that is, one cellar under another. It is approached by a covered aperture in the floor of the higher one, and is excavated out of the rock. It is supposed to have been made for smuggling purposes by some waterman, and it is termed "Wells End."

was unnecessary and *needless*, and thus it obtained the name. What its original name was cannot be ascertained. Mr. Elliot's house at Newmarket was once called the "Newmarket Inn," at the conjunction of the old Methley and Wakefield road. At Rothwell the "Shoulder of Mutton" was on the Marsh, kept by John Holt; afterwards it was changed to the "Fleece," and William Wildblood became landlord of it; he was followed by Joseph Lake. In 1800 the building at Church Lane Head, decayed on account of age, on the site where Mr. Greenwood is erecting cottages and shops, was the "Cross Keys," kept by Mrs. Ann Hallon.

The "Barley Mow" was in Mr. Barrett's house, the seedsman, and first kept by Rawnsley, then by a Mr. Arundale. The "Spotted Cow" was at Mr. Major Sheldon's house, attended to by Charles Waterton. The "Three Horse Shoes," where Mr. G. Blakley lives, was a beer-house, kept by John Taylor, sieve-maker, and afterwards by J. Goodall. The "Wood-pecker," near the Oulton End, was kept by John Todd.

Old existing houses are the "Coach and Horses." This was up to 1836 an old, low thatched place; the interior had oak beams and upright pillars. These were taken down and the roof raised. There is an interesting relic in this house, and its intrinsic value has only been of late discovered. It consists of a prettily-shaped "Punch Ladle." For generations it has been handed down from landlord to landlord in the valuation. On the inner part, at the bottom of the cup, is beautifully and plainly engraved the effigy of Charles the Second, in Roman toga, with peruke, and forehead laurel crowned, surrounded with "Carolus II., DEI GRATIA." On the outer part is the inscription, "REX MAG. BR. FRA. ET HIB" (King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland), bearing date 1677, with crown and two crossed inverted Cs. The cup is silver, the handle twisted whalebone tipped with silver.

The "White Swan," near the south-east church gate, was once kept by Betty Hey, and in 1815 by Thomas Walker, afterwards by his surviving wife, Mary, up to 1850. Often town's vestries and churchwarden's meetings were held here, and it was a convenient house for wedding parties.

The "Black Bull" was formerly carried on by old Thomas Hardaker, owner of the property, at the bowed-windowed house at the opposite side of the present building. This "public" was afterwards removed to the site where it now stands, but was then a pebble-dashed thatched cottage. Mr. James Verity, the owner and landlord, built the side-brick addition, approached by high steps, as a dancing and music saloon. The next landlords were: Jesse Dobson, William Reeves, John Holt, the latter rebuilt it with the present stone frontage on the same spot, afterwards Mr. Garlick and others were in possession. The "Hare and Hounds," evidently an old house, has been kept within the last sixty years by Sevile Taylor,

William Taylor (sieve-maker), William Wright for twenty-one years, then his son William, afterwards William Bulmer, and William Smith.

"John of Gaunt's" public-house, at Rothwell Haigh, on the highway road side, was built by Mr. James Verity, mason, soon after the new turnpike was formed, in 1822. When the London mails from Leeds to York, &c., ran on this road this house was noted. There is painted upon the sign-board a supposed portrait of the far-famed John of Gaunt, done by Charles Shillom, and underneath the picture are the following lines, composed by the Rev. J. Wardle:—

"Great John of Gaunt  
Kind friends prefer,  
Once far-famed Duke of Lancaster."

The name of the house was chosen no doubt because of the legend that John of Gaunt once came into the neighbourhood and killed a wild boar, but it is untrue to state that it was built upon the exact spot where the boar was killed, such an idea (there are reasons for knowing) never entered into the mind of the architect and builder, for Mr. Verity was both. He was a very ingenious man in many ways, and executed some important contracts. He built Oulton Church, from 1827-9; Woodhouse Church, and the Central Market, Leeds, and several other noted buildings.

The "Elephant and Castle," at Lofthouse, still kept by Mr. Hammond, was a favourite call-house for the stage coaches from Leeds to London.

#### MATCH MANUFACTURE AT ROTHWELL.

Though of modern establishment it has become one of the *staple* trades of the village, and is therefore deserving of prominent notice. The subjoined interesting facts and particulars have been kindly furnished by the senior member of the firm.

This peculiarly inflammable trade was commenced in 1840, by Mr. Richard Seanor, in a small factory formed out of a stable and hay chamber, in the Shaw Ditch, near the Mill Dam. The manufacture developed rapidly for about twelve months, but much more quickly came to an end by almost complete demolition from a fire, occurring at Whit-suntide, 1841.

The splints at this time were cut by hand with clog-knives, first into flakes and then the flakes recut into matches. Prior, however, to the fire, progress had been made by cutting the splints with a narrow hand-plane, in which lances were inserted, and the splints cut out of one-inch planks, at one instead of two operations. Clamps also were introduced, by means of which the matches could be dipped a short distance down the head, an improvement upon the plan of dipping them in bundles on the ends only.

After the fire a Manchester firm bought the salvage of the new machinery, and took with them the principal operatives, to introduce the new system of manufacture there.

The matches then made richly deserved the title "Lucifer," both from their sulphuric and phosphoric odours, and the appearance of the tables full of dipped matches, left to dry all night, when visited at dark might be described as a pantomime of the regions where Lucifer reigns supreme.

The boxes were made from paper pasted round wooden rollers, afterwards cut into lengths; tops of lids and bottoms of boxes being punched out of common card-board, and jammed into the rounds which, for ornamentation, were covered with the stained paper which Mabgate, Leeds, was then famous for.

Soon after the fire Mr. Richard Seanor joined a London firm in the same trade, and continued his connection with them until September, 1862, when he and his eldest son, as Richard Seanor and Son, recommenced the trade at Rothwell, on premises adapted for the purpose, previously occupied, as ropery and gas works, by Mr. James Young. Here also their trade quickly developed until 1867, when another serious fire destroyed about half their works and also a large stock of matches. This circumstance led to their removal to a new manufactory, partly built at the time of the fire, situate near the old Primitive Chapel, and adjoining the Beck. Not long after this a third fire occurred, completely destroying in one hour a temporary dipping shop, put up to save loss from suspension of their business after the second fire. However, as their business must go a-head, brick buildings, with iron roofs, were very soon put up, and still stand. The fiery history of this phoenix-like trade was not yet ended, for during the night

in September, 1875, the cry of fire roused up most of the villagers, and in about two hours the new saw mill, filled with expensive modern machinery, was completely gutted, incurring a very heavy loss to the two sons, Jabez Richard and Samuel Seanor, now in partnership under the firm of Seanor and Sons, West Riding Match Works, Mr. Richard Seanor having retired in 1869.

Great sympathy was felt with the enterprising and persevering manufacturers in their heavy loss and suspension of business. Within four months, however, the saw mill was rebuilt, and stocked with machinery, on a larger scale than heretofore. Other land and buildings, including the late Primitive Methodist Chapel, have since been added to their works, and further progress made, until their produce has reached to about 250 gross, equal to *one ton*, of "paraffin" matches per day, or about seventeen million of single matches per week, requiring about 3000 feet of Quebec pine deals for the matches, and 700 feet of specially-selected spruce for boxes, the latter being increasingly difficult to obtain, and needing many visits and much time to be spent at the port of Liverpool.

Mr. Richard Seanor died April 22nd, 1876, after having been dignified, at the Match Manufacturers' Association Dinner, in London, May 1875, as the "Father of the Match Trade."

Several attempts have been made to establish other match factories here, but the advancement and cost of machinery, along with keen competition in the trade, make it almost impossible for small concerns to succeed. Our village has greatly benefited by the employment thus found for its rising population; from 250 to 300 being more or less engaged in it, and we hope that the proprietors will eventually reap the reward which their energy and perseverance deserves.

## BOUNDARIES.

Rothwell, situated four miles south-east of Leeds and five miles north by east of Wakefield, besides being in Hunslet Union, in the Honor of Pontefract, Wapentake of Agbrigg and Morley, Diocese of Ripon, Archdeaconry of Craven, Rural Deanery of Wakefield, is in the Petty-sessional Division, the Southern Division of the West Riding, and in the County Court District of Leeds.

In 1833 the boundaries of the township were perambulated by several gentlemen and overseers of Rothwell. It occupied two days, and a certain amount of fun and practical joking took place. The outline of the boundary is something after the following. Starting at the Old Lane, near the Lodge at the Rothwell end of Oulton Lane, past Calvert's house, across the park, through the wood, on to Royd's Green, over Lee Moor beck near to Swithin's Farm, Carlton Carrs, Windmill Field gate, Mrs. Dobson's Steed Close, by Kendrew's brick field, up by Mrs. Ward's cottages on the road side, Oak Field, on to Nab's End, Low Goslem, Thwaite Gate, through a house near the "Crooked Billet," by the river side, on to Temple Newsam, across the Island, to Woodlesford, over the Lock—Grosvenor's Field—across the beck to Rothwell.

## OLD ROADS.

Chief roads passing through a place add greatly to its importance and prosperity. Up to sixty years ago an important north road came through Rothwell, and consequently some of its fame may be attributed to this fact. Since, however, the turnpike roads were formed, and avoided Rothwell, it has lost much of its ancient prestige.

To go back to Roman times, it seems bordering on a certainty that from the camp at Lingwell gate a vicinal way must have come to Lofthouse, thence to Carlton, across the bridge, up the elevated part of the Rothwell pastures, down by Shaw Ditch, across the beck, on to the top of Rothwell Haigh, across the ford at Woodlesford, thence to Garforth—Aberford—Castleford.

The old lanes and roads may often be distinguished by their circuitous formation. This is accounted for from the fact that land in early times being mainly employed for agricultural uses was in the hands of the farmers, and they would not allow of paths being made over *arable* land, so that public roads to them were only of secondary consideration, and had to give way to circumstances. The general public were merely allowed to travel upon them, and they were termed *accommodation* roads. Many field gates hindered quick progress. In process of time, and by common usage, these roads became as it were public right. Latterly Acts of Parliament have enforced certain roads, and, not taking into account individual whim or convenience, they have been planned in a more direct and straight line to the point intended.

We will now endeavour to indicate the direction of some of these old roads, but we do not insist on the correctness of every detail. Of course in the description of route we necessarily give modern references for identification.

The Bridle Stile, or Pack-horse Road from York to Manchester, entered the parish, crossing the ford at Woodlesford, through the village on to Holmsley, back of "Needless" Inn, down Pickpocket Lane, coming out by Craven's Farm, Rothwell Haigh, past the back of John of Gaunt's Inn, front of "Pearsy Pit," up the lane, across the waggon-way, past the Tiled Houses, out by the "Green Engine," down by Cousin's Pit, thence across the present Wakefield Road, up the Bridle Stile Lane by Mr. William Hargreave's residence, across fifty acres, along "Clappergate" Lane, through Middleton Wood—Morley—Manchester.

To proceed to Leeds : instead of going down by the "Green Engine,"

the road took down to the "Jaw Bones,"\* round the corner, and down "Bell Hill" Lane, then merely a somewhat narrow way, on to "Thwaite Gate"—Hunslet Lane—Leeds. *To Bradford*: top of Bell Hill Lane was crossed, thence past "Ebor" House, down old Middleton Road, on Jack Lane, across Hunslet Moor, thence across Holbeck Moor, to Kirkstall—Bradford.

A direct road from *Pontefract* to *Leeds* came by the front of Methley Church, thence passed in by the "Alms Houses, through the park below Club Cliffe, and joined the present road, entered the Oulton Park near the "Horse Shoes," along north side of the church, skirted the park, passed by Calvert the keeper's house, and out by the New Lodge at the Rothwell end of the lane, through Rothwell Town street, down Church Lane, across the beck (before the bridge was built), and round by the very awkward turn,† up the steep and deep road by the west side of the church, up the ancient Wood Lane (also called "Bell Horse ‡ Road), on to the Haigh—and so on.

A way from *Wakefield* to *Leeds* came through Rothwell thus: on Stanley Lane § to Newmarket turned in here, went by the front of Royds Hall, through the Green, and direct to Rothwell—to Oulton and Aberford. Where the guide-post is at Royds Green, it took down there and on to Oulton in a most roundabout direction before the new road was cut. At Newmarket House, to the left, the old road passed through "Patrick Green,|| across "Lee Moor," touched at Ouzelwell Green—thence to Lofthouse.

\* They are really the jaw bones of a whale, brought, it is said, from America by one of the Fentons, and placed over the gateway of Fenton House. They were fastened together with a beam at the top—the bolt holes can yet be seen. They were removed in Mr. Harrison's time and placed as ordinary gate posts in their present position, at the corner opposite the "Guide Posts." Plainly they are getting less, the ends inserted in the ground decaying, so that in a few years they will disappear altogether.

† At the corner near the church well, during the exciting time of Pontefract Races, there has been known to be many an upset by coming too rapidly down the steep incline.

‡ The first horse of a team carrying a bell, the tinkling of which announced the approach of the cavalcade, or was a warning in foggy or wintry weather.

§ In 1759 "Standley Lane" appears in the Registers; in 1738 "Newmarket."

|| "In 1654 James Pattrick lived at Rhodes," and other members of this family afterwards dwelt about here, so that it seems likely that the name of the district is a personal one.

The mode of travelling was on horseback. Ladies sat sideways on pillion, a kind of seat with cushion (some of them handsomely wrought and ornamented) strapped to the horse's body, with straps and supports for the feet; the man, riding at the front, had a strap round his body, with handle, which the lady could take hold of to secure herself. "Horsing steps," as they were called, on which people could get to mount their horses, were often part of the mile-post, and until very lately many could be seen in connection with public-houses, churches, and private residences.

When stage waggonns commenced to carry goods (and so displaced the pack-horse means of conveyance, which could manage on narrow or hilly roads), better and broader roads had to be formed.

The public and private roads and footpaths made during the time of the Rothwell Haigh Enclosure are specified in a copy of the Act, which, as far as relates to roads, is now subjoined.

Act of Parliament made and passed in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of King George III., entitled "An Act for dividing and enclosing a certain open tract of land called Rothwell Haigh, within Rothwell, in the West Riding of the County of York, 9th of February, 1786."

The Commissioners were John Sharp, of Gildersome; Richard Clark, of Rothwell Haigh. The surveyor: William Lumb, Swillington, land surveyor.

"The open tract of land contains 542 acres 2 roods 14 perches. *The Public Roads*—"Wakefield Road"—40 feet between the ditches and where the same is now set out, and has heretofore been used, beginning on the north side of the said Haigh, or open tract of land at the top of Bell Hill, and from thence leading southward into and over the said Haigh, in its usual course into an *ancient lane* in the Township of Carlton. Also one other public highway or road, herein called *Rothwell Road*, 40 feet in breadth, branching out of the last-mentioned road, and leading eastward over the Haigh to an *ancient lane*, called "Wood Lane," in the Township of Rothwell. Also one other public highway, called "*Woodlesford Road*," 40 feet in breadth, branching out of Rothwell Road, and leading eastward over the Haigh to a certain close called "*Holmsley Close*," the property of Sir William Lowther, Bart.; and from thence leading eastward 30 feet in breadth, in and over the said close into "*Rothwell Lane*," which last-mentioned part of 30 feet over the said close was given in exchange by the said Sir William Lowther for the purpose of making a more convenient public road; 1 rood 11 perches of the said

Haigh was awarded to Sir William Lowther in compensation. The said three public highways to be kept in repair from time to time by the Right Hon. Charles Philip, Lord Stourton, and the grass and herbage shall be the property of the said Lord Stourton, and those in remainder after his decease."

"*Private Roads.*—A private carriage or driving road, called *Windmill Road*, 18 feet in breadth, branching out of Rothwell Road, and leading northwards along the east side of lands awarded to William Finney, in a straight direction to lands awarded to Lord Stourton, for the use of owners of allotments adjoining, and their servants and tenants, and one half of it kept in repair by them, according to an acre rate, the expenses of repairs to be collected by the surveyor of the highways within the township; and the other part, beginning at the north end, by Lord Stourton, and those in remainder after his decease. Also one other private carriage driving way and "bridle road," called *Craven's Road*, 18 feet in breadth, branching out of the Woodlesford Road, and leading northward along the east side of lands herein awarded to Mary Dickson, in a straight line to those awarded to Lord Stourton. Also one other public bridle road, 10 feet in breadth, beginning at the north end of the last-mentioned road, and leading northwards into and over lands herein awarded to Lord Stourton, to and in an *ancient lane* near Craven's house. Also one other private carriage driving and bridle road, called *Gravel Pit Road*, 30 feet in breadth, branching out of the said Woodlesford Road, leading southward between the allotments herein awarded to Elizabeth Moore as freehold, and to Sir William Lowther as copyhold, to the gate leading into *Styebank Gravel Pit*. Also another private carriage driving way and bridle road, called *Howl Gutter Road*, 18 feet broad, beginning at the south end of Gravel Pit Road, and leading southward to an ancient lane, called *Howl Gutter Lane*, the two last roads being for the use of owners of lands, houses, and tenements in the Rothwell parish. These Roads, Gravel Pit gate and posts, to be maintained and kept in repair by the overseers of the poor of the parish. Also another road, 18 feet broad, called *Woodends Road*, beginning at the south-east corner of an allotment awarded to Lord Stourton, containing 109 acres 37 perches, leading eastward upon the said Haigh, along the south side of Lord Stourton's ancient enclosed lands to the west end of John Dobson's award, containing 2 acres 1 rood, turning southward to lands awarded to George Ritchen, and eastward along the south side of lands awarded to the heirs or assigns of John Dobson, and along the south side of lands awarded to the Vicar of Pontefract, Lord Stourton, John Burnell, and Thomas Wilson, and from thence to an ancient gate leading to Woodlesford, commonly called *Holmsley Gate*. Also another private carriage or driving road, called the *Coal Road*, 24 feet wide, branching out of Rothwell Road, between lands awarded to

Anthony Todd and Joseph Smith, leading southward to the north-west corner of an allotted acre awarded to Joseph Smith, in the Township of Carlton. Another road, called *Smith's Road*, 18 feet wide, branching from the south end of the last road south-eastward into and over lands on the said Haigh to an ancient gate leading into ancient enclosed lands of Lord Stourton, called *Smith's Farm*. Another private road, 15 feet wide, leading eastward from the said *Wakefield Road* along the north side of an allotment awarded to John Swift, in exchange, to ancient enclosures of Lord Stourton, called *Smith's Farm*. Also is set out one public bridle road, named *Middleton Bridle Road*, 6 feet 6 inches wide, beginning at an ancient gate called *Clap Gate*, the south-west corner of an allotment of 73 acres 5 perches awarded to Lord Stourton, leading north-eastward, about 150 yards of the side of Lord Stourton's ancient enclosures, to the north-west corner of lands awarded to Samuel Townsley, deceased. Also another private carriage and driving road and bridle road, 15 feet wide, called *Middleton Bridle Road*, branching out of *Wakefield Road*.

*Public Footways.*—One branching out of *Woodlesford Road*, at the east end, and leading towards the north-west over lands awarded to Sir William Lowther, William Sigston, James Milnes, John Waugh, Henry Perkins, Edward Brooks, John Brooks, Betty Vavasour, the heirs or assigns of James Petty, Samuel Smithson, John Blaydes, and Lord Stourton, now occupied by Thomas Smith. Also one other footpath, beginning at the ancient stile out of Rothwell Church Field, at the north-west corner, over lands awarded to Viscountess Irwin, into and over Woodlesford Road, in a northerly direction, into and over lands awarded to James North, Viscountess Irwin, Edward Walton, and Lord Stourton, until it meets the last-mentioned foot road near the east end of the said orchard occupied by Thomas Smith. Also another public footway or road, branching out of *Howl Gutter Road*, westward into and over the north end lands awarded to Thomas Hardacre as copyhold. Another footpath, beginning at an ancient stile in Rothwell Church Field, leading over lands awarded to John Blaydes, Esq., and to Lord Stourton, in its usual course to *Cryer Cut*. Also another, beginning at an ancient stile called *Lodge Stile*, leading from thence northwards over lands awarded to Lord Stourton, about the distance of fifty yards to and over a stile now fixed at the east end of the new flag causeway in the said Rothwell Road. Another, branching out of *Wakefield Road* southward in a straight direction over lands awarded to Jane Leak, Thomas Smith, Thomas Oliver, the Earl of Westmoreland, to and over the south-east corner of lands awarded to John Swift, and to and over a stile there fixed into ancient enclosed lands of the said Lord Stourton. Another, branching from the south end of the last-mentioned road to the south-east corner of John Swift's allotment, and leading southwards along the west side of Lord Stourton's ancient fence

into and over the allotment awarded to the said John Swift, Thomas Swift, Robert Swift, Eleanor Eamonson, Benjamin North, John Stocks, jun., John Stocks, sen., George Harrison, the Vicar of Woodchurch, and William Harrison, to an ancient stile called *Nab Stile*. Also another, beginning at an ancient stile in the Township of *Middleton*, near Clap Gate, at the south-west corner of land awarded to Lord Stourton, leading north-eastward about 150 yards by the side of Lord Stourton's ancient enclosures, and from thence turning eastward in a direct line where the bridle road is hereinbefore awarded, to the Bridle Gate at the south-west corner of lands herein awarded to Elizabeth Black, and from thence eastward over the same land of Elizabeth Black's, over lands awarded to Elizabeth D'Oyley and the heirs of William Burnell, into Wakefield Road, on south side of the *Old Gravel Pit*,\* over the said Wakefield Road, along the north side of lands awarded to John Swift, in exchange, to and over a stile there into ancient enclosed lands of the said Lord Stourton.

In 1750 stage waggons were in full operation, carrying between Leeds, Manchester, Norwich, and London.

The introduction of the novelty of "flying machines with steel springs," for as such they were described, necessitated more direct and still better and smoother roads, and accordingly in the early part of the eighteenth century "Turnpike Local Acts" came into force. Highway robberies were not unfrequent on Wakefield road about 1750.

Over sixty years ago some kind of stage post coaches passed through Rothwell on their way to Pontefract, Doncaster, &c. (but not the regular stage coaches, these went out of Leeds by way of Castleford, Ferry Bridge, &c.), and certainly a very difficult and indirect road they had to travel. A change of horses was kept at Oulton, but being only a short stage from Leeds it was thought they would be more useful further on the road, and were afterwards stationed at Wood Row, Methley. Wherever they ran they caused a kind of sensation. Several being in opposition, their starting point and progress was watched with interest.

\* Amongst casualties in the parish, it occurs in 1775, 29th September, that Isaac Banks was slain at the Sand Pit in Stee (sty) Banks. In 1793 Christopher Milham was accidentally killed in the Gravel Pit, Haigh.

About the time of the Rothwell Haigh Enclosure, the broad road from the Haigh to Woodsford Lane, commonly known as the "old road," was made, and it was a real convenience for wheeled conveyances to Woodsford, Swillington, and Astley.

The Leeds, Pontefract, and Barnsdale Turnpike was opened on July 13th, 1822, and diminished the distance of the former road between Leeds and Doncaster more than four miles. It was constructed by the noted Mr. Macadam. In 1823 the road from Bell Hill to Hunslet was considerably widened, in fact made a new road. The widening had been done on the road through Robin Hood and Lofthouse previously, being completed on 8th September, 1820. The Wakefield and Abersford Road was made whilst Mr. Brook resided at Royds Hall. He objected to it being cut through his park, and would have paid the Commissioners money to have allowed it to continue in the old direction on the west of the hall, but they refused.

Some of the stage coaches between Leeds and London were named the "Telegraph," "Express," "Courier," "True Blue," "Rockingham," and "Union." Several passed through Lofthouse, and branched off by Sheffield, Derby, &c. This advertisement appears in 1787: "Royal Mail Coaches between Leeds and London, conveying *mail bags, guarded* all the way. Safest and speediest public conveyance to and from the south. Starting every evening and arriving every morning at seven o'clock. Fare £2 2s.; outside £1 1s." Accidents were rather common. In 1827, November 22nd, the "True Blue" coach, returning from Wakefield to Leeds, was overturned at Bell Hill, and three persons died by the accident, viz., William Herfield, the driver, killed on the spot; Mr. Charles Cape, of Leeds, and Mr. James Burrell, of Arkendale, who died soon after.†

The new road from Rothwell to Oulton was cut during 1846-7. It commences about opposite Spring Head Gates. This took place the year after the factory was demolished, and part of the stones of its buildings were used for walling, the rest were obtained from the temporary quarry then opened out in the lane, but now filled up. During the formation of this road an Oulton lad, named Armitage, was killed. He, along with other boys, had been playing with a "three-wheeled dicky," as the navvies termed it, and was upon it whilst running down an incline. It capsized, and the cart edge fell upon his head and crushed him to death. This road is the only *new* one made in the parish since the survey of 1839. On the 18th of July in that year there was a town's meeting to take into consideration the propriety of marking on this plan a line of railway. The proposal was brought before a select committee of the House of Commons, but

\* *Leeds Mercury.*

† *Annals of Yorkshire.*

being strongly opposed by several persons from Rothwell, who allowed private interests to overrule general good, it fell through. The foolishness of this is now apparent, and Rothwell desires, and for future progress requires an extension.

The public roads did away with many of the old footpaths.

There used to be one (but stopped upwards of fifty years ago) coming out of Carlton into Swithin's Lane, across by Royds Green, down by the present Mr. Calverley's garden and into Oulton. It branched at a certain point and came out at "Tom Boddam's" into Rothwell Lane. Another way was out of the older part of the commencement of Oulton Lane, across stone steps in the wall, down by "Chatham House," and near the Colley Well. Another started between the bridge and the church on the beck side, turning into Jail Fold, or direct to Gillet Bridge.

On Woodlesford Lane a short distance a footpath went down the field by the east boundary of the Vicarage, on the ridge above the beck, along the willow garth,\* and out nearly opposite the present Oulton Parsonage. This was a most pleasant rustic walk embowered with trees. Another path went out of Dawson's Lane down by the old river, towards what is now called the Island, caused by the cutting of the late canal, in 1834. A public-house was kept here by a Ben Preston. For the convenience of the Rothwell miners there was a ford, and Fentons placed here one of the first iron boats made in the kingdom. This way also led to the right on by the coal staith—Glasshouses—to Leeds.

"Love Lane," across the gardens in Church Field, was an old bridle stile road leading to the Church. It obtained its appellation from the fact that it was a favourite promenade of two devoted lovers, named Robert Beckwith, a young lawyer, and Elizabeth Beckwith. They were near cousins, and the engagement was discountenanced by the respective parents on this account. However, they were so deeply attached to each other that they took it to heart. Both died early, it is said broken hearted, and were buried the same day in the same grave, in Rothwell churchyard, April 3rd, 1755. The Beckwiths were an anciently-planted and a highly-respectable family in Rothwell, and engaged many years in the practice of law. They lived in the house with ornamented ceiling in Town Street.

In August, 1772, "The Rothwell Church Bridge was rebuilt, by Joseph Owen and Thomas Hall, masons; Mr. Richard Vavasour for the

\* Where the Rothwell basket-makers formerly got their material.

highways."† Previously horses and carts went through the beck, and there was a foot-bridge for passengers. "On the 8th September, 1772, Benjamin Grave, of Rothwell, was the first dead man brought over the new bridge." In 1791 *Gillet Bridge* was built, Edward Walton and James Moore surveyors. Before this date horses had to wade the beck, while a wooden bridge was thrown across for the use of foot passengers. Gates, to prevent the cattle straying into the village from Rothwell Haigh Common, were placed at certain points, one at Gillett Lane end—the post remained until 1802. In 1751 there was a Hague (Haigh) Gate, probably at the top of Wood Lane. According to the late old Mrs. Seanor's recollection, Wood Lane in her early days was so narrow that only one horse and cart could traverse it at a time, and that great doors were hung nearly opposite Mrs. Nickoll's house, through which a single conveyance could only just make its way. The name of Thwaite Gate remains to the present day, referring no doubt to the same use. In 1768 there was a Goslem Glasshouse Lodge, by the glasshouse, evidently indicating some carriage way to the house, in all probability in connection with Bell Hill Lane and Hunslet Road.

From calculation, at least 120 years ago a road from the north side of the Market Cross passed into Pottery Fold. One of the old gate posts remains, and is built into the wall enclosing the wood-yard used by Mr. Copley. By the marks of the stones it appears to have been about 12 feet wide, and entered through a gate. It may have been planned for the market people, being a more direct route than Church Lane, and led across the beck, past the Church Well, and up Wood Lane.

#### MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

Rothwell had at the same period similar manners and customs to those of other places. Several practices were uncouth and barbarous, and, though called amusements and diversions, were cruel in their very nature.

*Bear Baiting* on a Sunday is hinted at in *Domestic Annals, Addenda, Elizabeth*, vol. xix. (see note to page 54 of this work), as taking place in the parish about 1570. Even as late as 1802 *bull baiting and boxing* were

\* Church Register memoranda.

† The men employed in building it had an allowance of drink shared out to them; the supply running short they said *gill-it*, and from this expression the name is said to have originated.

encouraged. On Shrove Tuesday, within the memory of old villagers now living, the cruel practice of *throwing at cocks* was carried on in the garth near the church. A cock was tied by the legs to a short pole so that he could not get away, and people threw sticks (after the Aunt Sally fashion) at him and tried to break his legs. The more the animal yelled out with pain, and the more exciting the game became, the better it was liked. Cock-fighting was especially encouraged at Carlton and Lee Moor. Cock-pits (sunken round places), where these feathered animals performed their pugilistic feats, were formed at the latter place. To this day certain houses are named Cock-pit Houses. To give a zest to the performance, the fighting-cocks' combs were previously cut off, and steel spurs were fixed to the animal's legs. This so called (abominable) pastime was in full play about 1750 and several years later. Some of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood were patrons of the sport, considering it noble and manly. Advertisements appeared regularly in the newspapers announcing "that a main of cocks" would fight for so much a side at a certain public-house. In 1759 a letter appears in the *Leeds Intelligencer* against the "barbarous practice and diversion of cock-fighting, signed by Anti-Gallicus." Not many years ago several trainers and feeders existed in some of our villages. The law has very properly stepped in and put a stop to these unseemly exhibitions;\* and though several would be glad to see them revived, upon the whole a more humane feeling prevails.

On June 23rd, 1824, Leeds Horse Races were instituted at Haigh Park, in this parish, by a Mr. Brown, commonly known as Parson Brown. The ground was provided with a grand stand and accommodation for horses and their riders, and refreshment booths. They were not commenced without some expression of disapproval from magistrates and influential gentlemen of Leeds. In 1828 the ancient British sport of wrestling was introduced at them. In 1831, however, these races were discontinued, being highly detrimental in their effect upon the morals of the neighbourhood.

The truly English and manly game of cricket during the season is heartily entered into, both by young and middle-aged, throughout the parish, and friendly matches are regularly played by the members of our excellently-conducted Rothwell Cricket Club with others in the neighbourhood. The club is supported by some of the gentry in the district, and our respected vicar and his late curate are active members of it. The committee last year were fortunate in securing a good field in Royds Lane; the ground is well kept, and the surrounding landscape charming and picturesque. The club numbers sixty-four ordinary members and thirty-four honorary members, having first and second elevens formed out of it, and their playing

\* Act against Cruelty to Animals, passed in 1822.

qualities are above the average for a country club; Mr. Thomas T. Rawling is secretary. The original club was at first named the "Duke of Lancaster," on account of its committees being held at John of Gaunt's Inn. Afterwards the club left there, and recommenced at the Hare and Hounds under the name of the "Game Boys," on the 5th November, 1849. This name was soon thrown aside, and the old and better-sounding title resumed. The late Mr. John Clarkson was secretary. For want of a suitable ground this society was broken up.

The old game of knur-and-spell is still a favourite with a certain class of men, but it does not meet with much encouragement from the highest society. Unfortunately it is far too much connected with sporting and gaming transactions.

*Rothwell Model Brass Band* was established in 1838, and now numbers eighteen members chiefly miners. At a contest at Pontefract, in 1870, it gained the second prize; and in 1876, at Normanton, two third prizes. The band-master is Mr. Samuel Fowler; and the secretary Mr. Thomas Bennett. This band may be pronounced a good one; it has shown much improvement of late years, and there is evidently a desire to excel and a striving after excellence actuating its members. The band possesses two military uniforms, which give a smart and soldierly appearance to the men.

The remembrance of several ancient customs is still kept up though their original intention and significance is often overlooked or forgotten. The most favoured one is that of *Christmas-tide*, a season of family meetings and greetings, and an indulgence in the cheer of eating and drinking, when vocal parties and *our* band of music usually perform from early morn the cheerful but solemn tunes appropriate for the occasion. The youngsters freely parade our streets, and through our lock-holes repeat the well-known good wishes, not forgetting to finish up with that most important clause to *them*—"Please will you give me a Christmas box!" On the evenings, for about a fortnight, mumming is freely indulged in by all classes (young and middle-aged), as it affords an opportunity, under the disguise of a mask, of perpetrating rough, and sometimes coarse fun, which at any other time would not be tolerated.\* This usage has become modernized, the "Peace Egg" being seldom performed. The programme now consists of song singing of a strangely-comic character, accompanied by some musical instrument and laughable chorus. In the costume females often assume male attire, and *vice versa*, showing off in a grotesque and ridiculously-exaggerated manner the latest fashionable foibles of the day. Probably the olden Christmas cheer is less thought of than the opportunity for merriment.

\* There used to be a party of morris dancers, and the ancient Saxon sword dance was gone through.

*Plough Monday*, the first Monday after the Twelfth Day, formerly and exclusively a rural festival, and a relaxation from irksome rustic employment, we are faintly reminded of by the coming round of two well-known farm labourers seeking gifts or remembrances, calling themselves "Plough Stocks," one of whom carries a horn, which he occasionally blows; but this affair is shorn of its fantastic ribboned dancers, its "Bessy," and accompanying "fool," and the symbolic plough is minus.

*Collop Monday* is not much thought of. *Shrove Tuesday*, or *Pancake Tuesday* is more in favour, and affords an afternoon holiday for young folks, who, after enjoying their pancakes, spend the time in "playing at ball" and "shuttlecock." At Lofthouse, in a garth there, the innocent game of "orange throwing" is practised—three oranges being perched upon the top of sticks and aimed at. On the same day foot-ball was common sixty years ago, but has died out.

*Good Friday* is a general *holiday*, or *holy-day*, and by a strange perversion of the term is turned into a season of rejoicing, except by those religiously disposed towards its strict observance. On Easter Monday and Tuesday is the Rothwell Feast, which has of late years extended its borders, if we may judge by the larger number of stalls (spice and toy), shooting galleries, and the other kind of amusements provided.

*The Flower Show*, established some twelve years since, eclipses it, and has become the most attractive feature of the year. As a meeting of friends, and a pleasurable promenade, and means of enjoying the sight of flowers, fruit, vegetables, poultry, pigs, horses and their leaping qualifications, accompanied by the music of our now excellent native band. It is generally held in the first week of August. If conducted properly, and its real object fully carried out and understood, it might become the means of inculcating a perception of the beautiful in nature and the propagation of the excellent in cultivation.

*Whitsuntide* is considered a general holiday and a season for railway day trips. The Primitive Methodist Sunday-school scholars celebrate their anniversary generally on the Monday; but the Church and the Wesleyan Methodists delay theirs until some time in July—both on one day. It is certainly a charming sight to see the children muster in so large a number and so well dressed and clean; it is also a delight to hear their sweet singing of appointed hymns—the latter especially encouraged by the Methodists—and performed at intervals on the route. After being regaled with tea and buns, they proceed to some field, where toys, oranges, and balls are distributed and innocent games played. The commendable Rothwell "Band of Hope Society," established in 1872, has its annual summer demonstration generally about August. Its young members, assisted by instrumentalists, sing through the village melodies illustrating the advantages of teetotalism.

*St. Thomas' Day* from time immemorial has been devoted to charitable uses. About fifty years ago the farmers were particularly bountiful to the poor, giving every family a peck of corn, so that families gathering from each farmer accumulated a good store, and, to add to this, Jenny Dawson, the miller, ground it for them free.

*The Parochial Clothing Club*, which receives the smallest contributions of those disposed to make use of it, assisted by the liberality of ladies and gentlemen, offers as an inducement a handsome bonus. The amount is chiefly employed in the purchase of warm clothing and is a real blessing to the people—it is served generally on St. Thomas' Day. In the winter season Mrs. Charlesworth, late of Lofthouse, has for years most liberally and judiciously distributed useful clothing to poor widows of the parish. Having removed from the district, she is still admirably represented by her daughter in the management of this noble and charitable work.

*Guy Fawkes, or Bonfire Day*, is carried out with spirit by the youths of the village, and for weeks beforehand they look out some large old stump of a tree; the yards and enclosures are all a-blaze with the towering flames of the monster fires, and the continual noise of the firework explosions, and the loud and startling report of cannons and pistols, keep the place lively, frighten the horses, and annoy the sick and nervous.

"*St. Valentine's Day.*"—Since stationers' shops, exhibiting all kinds of missives, have become established here, the means and the day are *freely* made use of by young men and maidens either to express their love and admiration of, or show their secret dislike to certain persons, through the medium of the post. In this prosaic and utilitarian age, the high-flown poetic effusions have had of late to give way to the more sensible and useful presents of gloves, ties, handkerchiefs, &c.,—of course nicely scented.

#### ENCLOSURES.

In the first Act for enclosing Rothwell Haigh, in 1785, these terms are mentioned in the preamble.

"Manor of Rothwell: five several lordships or townships, viz., Rothwell, Lofthouse, Carlton, Oulton, and Woodlesford." "The open tract Rothwell Haigh, containing 552 acres, is the residue of a large tract of land heretofore called Rothwell Haigh Park, or Rothwell Park."\*

\* In the reign of Henry VIII. was dis-parked, and allowed to relapse into a state of nature.

"Charles Philip Lord Stourton,\* Baron of Stourton, in the county of York, sole proprietor and absolute owner of the freehold and inheritance of this open tract, subject to such right of herbage or agistment as hereafter mentioned."

The following were styled "king's tenants," having a right of herbage of cattle on 305 acres of Rothwell Haigh, by paying yearly to Lord Stourton, viz., from 14th May to 10th October, *one shilling* for a horse, *sixpence* for an ox, and *fourpence* for a stirk, John Earl of Westmoreland,† John Earl of Mexborough, Frances Viscountess Irwin, Sir William Lowther, Sir John Silvester Smith, Bart.,‡ Metcalf Proctor,

\* In our searchings we find this memorandum:—"1603, November 19th,—Lease in revision to Edward Lord Stourton of the Manor of Rothwell." It is believed that a Lord Stourton afterwards acquired the Rothwell Haigh estate through the Norfolks, and that when the gift was made the parties little suspected the rich underlying wealth of coal. On examination of the Stourton pedigree, we read that "William Stourton succeeded as fifteenth Baron Stourton 1753; born 1704; married 11th October, 1749; died 3rd October, 1781; buried at Wilham, County Essex; married Winifred, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Philip Howard, of Buckingham, County of Norfolk, youngest brother of Edward Duke of Norfolk, and co-heiress of her uncles, Thomas and Edward Dukes of Norfolk, through whom her ladyship, with her half-sister Lady Petre, became co-heiress to the baronies of Howard, Mowbray, Furnival, Strange; and died 15th July, 1754." Again we learn that the name of Stourton is derived from *Stour* (a fight or assault), and is of the highest antiquity. They were supposed to have been settled in the West of England previous to the Conqueror, at which time lived one Botolph, who, according to tradition, when William the Conqueror invaded this part of England, broke down the sea walls of the Severn, and retreating to Glastonbury, guarded the pass by land until the Norman William acceded to the terms required. The *arms* are sable, a bend or, between six fountains proper; *crest*, on a wreath, a demi-grey friar, habited in russet, girt or, holding a scourge of three lashes with knots, gules; supporters two sea-dogs proper, sealed on their backs and finned, or; *motto*, "*Loyal je serai durant ma vie*," equivalent to "I will be loyal all my life."

† Ralph, first Earl of Westmorland, had as his second wife Joan, daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

‡ Of Newland, near Normanton.

Esq.,\* James Milnes, Esq.,† John Blayds, Esq., Peter Burt, Esq., Anthony Todd, Esq., John Backhouse,‡ Henry Houson, Edward Brooke,§ William Sigston,|| Thomas Smith, Henry Parkins, John Smith, James Smith, William Burnell,¶ John Waugh (*gentleman*),\*\* John Pyemont, John Dobson, David Smirthwaite, John Stocks (*yeoman*).††

In the second Enclosure Act, made 18th March, 1793, it is stated that there was an "inclusive act and award as to gravel pits at Sty Bank, formerly part of Rothwell Haigh, namely, 6 acres exact, to the public for sand gravel pits, stone pits, or quarries, to owners and occupiers of messuages, cottages, frontsteads, lands, and tenements within the several townships." "Howl Gutter Lane, towards the west, being one boundary." "The overseers of the poor for the said townships have power to let the herbage or soil for the best rent that can be got yearly, which sum to be applied in aid of the poor rate."

For many years the people made use of the above privilege to obtain gravel and scouring-stones, &c. Mr. Blayds, of Oulton, for a time paid £21 yearly for the use of it. He levelled it and closed up the pits. It was suspected that there was an intention of encroachment on his part. A public meeting was called, February 18th, 1852, to protest against any such attempt, and to show that no person could possibly have any claim to it. The gathering was a large and influential one, and presided over by the Vicar. Mr.

\* Of Thorpe-on-the-Hill. Became owner upon his father Francis Proctor's death, about 1721 or 1722.

† Of Thornes House, near Wakefield. Was born in 1755, and died in 1805.

‡ Of Haigh Side.

§ Of Royds Hall.

|| Of Oulton. An extensive dyer, successful in the colour of *scarlet* particularly.

¶ Of Lofthouse.

\*\* Of Manor House.

†† Of Carlton.

Thomas Stephenson, supported by several of the inhabitants, took a very active part in the matter, and stood out as the people's advocate. He read a correspondence carried on with Lord Stourton, his agent, and himself, in which it was distinctly stated that it was out of the power of his lordship to dispose of land once granted to the public *for ever* by a former Lord Stourton. Mr. Calverley, who had been at considerable expense in levelling the ground, desisted from any further action. Since then it has been let to various parties, the highest yearly tender being accepted by the overseers. The amount realised is now about £6. Virtually it is little good to the general inhabitants of the place, and its original purpose is not carried out.

The Rothwell Old Cricket Club, in order to obtain a ground, paid a yearly rental and re-let the herbage. The members commenced to play upon it, fully believing that they had a perfect right so to do. The late Mr. Calverley thought fit to disabuse them of such an idea by sending several of the members a writ. They assumed an attitude of resistance; but, upon consulting legal advice, were judged to be in the wrong, and consequently withdrew. It was shown that the intention of the ground was not for sporting or recreation, but for the purpose specified in the award; and, moreover, the lord of the manor had power to allow or hinder it being employed for any other use. Afterwards, upon application, the people were graciously permitted to use it as a *play* ground.

The amount of land allotted to people indicated to some extent their importance and relative position in the parish, having certain claim or right through property or land previously held by them.

A few examples are given.

"To the Governors of Wakefield Free Grammar School.

"We do set out, allot, and award unto the Governors of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, at Wakefield, and to their successors, for the use and benefit of the said school for the time being, 4 acres

30 perches of land, parcel of the said Haigh, bounded by lands herein awarded to the assignees of Richard Milner Smirthwaite, a bankrupt, on or towards the east by lands herein awarded to John Smith, James Smith, Richard Burton, Thomas Wilson, Sir William Mordaunt Milner, and John Smyth, on or towards the west, and by Rothwell Road on or towards the north. And we do direct and award that the said Governors and their successors shall make and maintain sufficient fences and ditches on the east side and north end of this allotment."

Paying Land Tax in Rhodes Township, 3s. 3½d.

The land connected with the above is called "Broad Dyke Close," 1 acre 1 rood 35 poles, by Carlton Bridge, and Royds Close, 2 acres 3 roods 11 perches.

The names of those having land awarded under an acre are the Rev. James Ord, vicar of Rothwell, James Bilsborough, Thomas Braithwaite, Martha Braithwaite, Alice Myers, George Barber, William Finney, William Fugill, John Field, Richard and John Grave, Betty Vavasour, Elizabeth Moore, Esther Medley, Thomas Smith, the Rev. William Baines, Mrs. Grace Webb, Joseph Adamson's heirs and assigns, Matthew Wright, John Overend's heirs and assigns, Joseph Smith, Samuel Townsley's heirs or assigns, John Pyemont, John, Thomas, and Robert Swift, William Bulmer, Richard Milner Smirthwaite, Jonas Clark, William Dickinson, John Dunford, John Smirthwaite, Mary Lund, Rev. Charles Knowlton, Roger Moore, Robert Smirthwaite, Thomas Wilson, George Stockdale, Charles Hayes, Miss Markham (within the manor of Newland), Mary Bowcock, Vicar of Woodchurch, Benjamin North, Eleanor Eammonson, Isaac Banks, Jane Leake, John Rayner, William Fox, Thomas Shemelds, Robert Graves, John Fearnley, John Spink, James Westerman, Thomas Oliver's heirs or assigns, &c.

Others possessing a larger extent, whose names are not previously mentioned, are George Barber, Thomas Craven, Samuel Keeling's heirs or assigns, Elizabeth Moore, Thomas Hardaker, Thwaite Proprietors, Edward Walton, William Smith, Samuel Gibson, Messrs. Houson, Edward and John Brooke, Marm. Vavasour, Thomas Fenton, Esq., Samuel Smithson, Henry Perkins, Esq., James Petty, his heirs or assigns, James North, Sir John Smith's heirs or assigns, Mary Dixon, Joseph Smith, George Kitchen's heirs or assigns, John Dobson's heirs or assigns, William Squire, Elizabeth Black, Anna Maria D'Oyley, William Burnell's heirs or assigns, Messrs. Wood, Fisher, and Broadbent, John Ord, Esq., William Harrison. Total 305 acres to certain proprietors.

Many of the smaller claims were afterwards purchased by the more wealthy proprietors, and thus the land got into fewer hands.

A third "Act for enclosing lands in the Townships of Rothwell with Royds, and Oulton with Woodlesford, in the parish of Rothwell, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, was passed in the 49th George III., 1809."

"In the Townships of Rothwell with Royds, and Oulton with Woodlesford, are several open fields, commons, and waste grounds, about 450 acres. John Blayds and Benjamin Gaskell, claim to be Lords of the Manor of Oulton; William Wilks, Lord of the Manor of Woodlesford; Right Hon. Charles Philip Lord Stourton, Thomas Moore, and the said John Blayds, claim to be Lords of the Manor of Rothwell.

"The king, in right of his Duchy of Lancaster, claims St. Clement's tithes, issuing out of certain lands within the said townships.

"And whereas Charles John Brandling, Esq., is seized in fee of the great tithes within the Township of Rothwell with Royds aforesaid, save and except certain parts thereof which have been sold and granted away.

"And whereas the said John Blayds is seized in fee of the great tithes within the Township of Oulton with Woodlesford, Marquis of Hertford John Earl of Mexborough Philip Lord Stourton, John Blayds, Benjamin Gaskell, William Wilkes, James Moore, Joseph Dobson, Joseph Smith, Joseph Houson, &c., are proprietors of messuages, lands, &c., within the said townships.

"It is enacted that all messuages and cottages within the said Townships of Rothwell with Royds, and Manor of Oulton respectively, which had satisfactorily proved right upon Rothwell Haigh, according to the 1793 Act, shall be entitled to space or allotment from the said commons and waste grounds respectively.

"Allotted unto the Surveyors of the Highways within the Township of Rothwell with Royds and Manor of Oulton, 2 acres for Rothwell, 1 acre for Oulton, as a public watering place for cattle, and for getting stone, gravel, sand, and other materials for the making of public roads and ways over the respective commons, wastes, &c."

The principal landowners of the parish are—

		Gross estimated Rental.
The Right Hon. Lord Stourton,		
possessing in the West Riding	5097a. 1r. 11p.	£9347 1 0
Edmund Calverley, Esq., of		
Leeds and Oulton	2401a. 1r. 38p.	8334 19 0
The successors of the late Joseph		
Crompton Oddie, Esq., Wood-		
lesford	... ... ... 436a. or. 28p.	925 15 0

(Returns of owners of land, 1873.)

There are also a goodly number of small freehold proprietors in Rothwell.

From a survey of the Township of Rothwell made in 1825, by Henry Teale, the following particulars are taken (though not considered very trustworthy will give an approximate idea).

	A.	R.	P.
Open Commons, Sty Bank	...	6	1 14
Marsh	...	7	1 2
Royds Green	...	46	0 15
Far Lightnings	...	33	3 2
Patrick Green	...	8	3 11
Total Waste Lands	...	102	2 23
Total Enclosures	...	3278	3 17
General Total	...	3381	2 0

A most valuable and trustworthy Survey Plan of Rothwell was made in 1839, by Richard Gouthwaite, Esq., of Leeds. The scale is six chains to the inch. It cost about £200.

In June, 1852, Mr. John Farrer, of Oulton, made a valuation of the township, as follows:—

CONTENTS.	A.	R.	P.
Rothwell	...	949	2 2
Rothwell Haigh	...	1730	0 34
Royds Green	...	510	0 11

ANNUAL VALUE.	£	s.	d.
(a) Rothwell	...	8448	6 3
(b) Rothwell Haigh	...	11,409	0 1½
Royds Green	...	1227	2 7

(a) Takes in the canal. (b) Includes the coal pits and railway.

RATEABLE VALUE, 1852.	£	s.	d.
Rothwell	...	6469	0 1
Rothwell Haigh	...	8810	19 2½
Royds Green	...	1065	3 4

£16,345 2 7½

In 1839 the rateable value was £15,000. In 1876, gross value £32,000; rateable value, £26,000. September, 1877, gross value, £33,159 16s. 7d.; rateable value, £26,718 7s. 4d. (From the Town's Books.)

## ANCIENT NAMES OF PLACES.

From accounts of leases, granted to certain individuals by the Priors of Nostell, a selection is made.

"On 7th October, 1483, to Sir William Hopton, Bart., one close or pasture, called 'Croheyng.' In 1506, to the same, 'Parson land,' 'Raw rode,' 'the Hope,' 'Heyrode,' 'Holmesley.' On 4th Oct., 8 Henry VIII. (1516), 'to Birkhead, alias Harper, tenement: Tythe Lathgarth on the east, highway on the west, river of Rothwell on the south, and the church-yard on the north.' In A.D. 1502, 'to Robert Grave, of a cottage with garden lying near the Vicarage.' In A.D. 1370, 'to Robert Swillington, arable and meadow land, called Le Croke.' 30th Henry VIII. (1538), Stanencroft, Kirkbriggs."

Certain enclosed tracts of land, chiefly situated on Rothwell Haigh, have peculiar names, and are suggestive, such as "Tan House Close;"\* "Far and Near Nabs;" "Orgrave Field;" "Upper, Middle, and Lower Shutt;"† "Tom and Little Tom Boddams;"‡ "Hodgate Lane;" "Hope Field;" "Harden Flatts;"§ "Holgate Lane Ends;" "Stonewell Flatt;" "Pig Minister;" "Butts;"|| "Brigg Close;" "Crabtree Close;" "Marling Close;" "Esp Nook;" "Jack and Lake Close;" "Lintel Close;" "Dogs' Kennel;" "Haigh Pale Close;" "Cowstand;"¶ "San-

\* Previously to 1825 held by Mr. Joseph Smith.

† Enclosed or stopped up lands.

‡ The lower part of an incline or slope.

§ Open spreading ground.

|| Refers in all probability to the practice of archery. Butts were mounds of earth against which the target was placed. The statute of Winchester, 13 Edward I., cap 6, enacts "that every man between fifteen years of age and sixty shall be assessed and sworn to armour, according to the quantity of his lands and goods. For forty shillings lands: a sword, a bow and arrow, and a dagger; and all others that may have bows and arrows. By statutes of Richard II. and Henry IV., able-bodied men were required to employ their leisure at the butts, 'as valiant Englishmen ought to do.'" It was enacted in 1541, "that each village should maintain a pair of 'butts,' and no person under the age of twenty-four was to be permitted to shoot with the light-flight arrow at a distance of less than 200 yards."

¶ Before the Haigh enclosure, where the milch kine used to be gathered towards evening for milking purposes.

derhouse Close." Massey Close, Butts in Holmsley Field, Bent Cliffe (Royds Green), Parson Boddams, St. Clement's Land, some of it down by Thwaite Mills, 65 acres in extent, was occupied by a Mr. Smythe, of near Bramham, who refused to pay the tithes, when an action was taken against him by the Rev. R. H. Brandling, but in the meantime he (Mr. Smythe) died, his daughters, however, amicably settled with Mr. Bell, Vicar.

## PUNISHMENTS.

When two unmarried persons of opposite sex had been convicted of a private or scandalous sin, formerly they had to do public penance in the church. They were dressed in white smocks, and had to confess their transgression and to beg pardon, vowing never to commit the offence again. Public disapproval of the misdemeanour, of wife beating, and husband abusing by his spouse, or unfaithfulness on either side, was shown by the neighbours assembling in the streets and carrying out what was called "riding the stang," that is, a young man usually, on a short pole or ladder, was borne on the shoulders of others, and at the front of the dwelling of the guilty party an old rhyme was repeated, and the individual circumstances of the case were brought in, composed by some native rhymester. The rabble paraded the streets, creating boisterous fun, much to the annoyance of the parties concerned. Mr. John Smith, in his "Ancient Reminiscences," thus describes an affair of this sort happening in 1804. Reuben Booth, an old pensioner, of Rothwell, had a strong muscular wife who frequently beat and otherwise abused him. On hearing of these matrimonial squabbles, the "stang" was ridden, and a young man, with a tin can placed before him, walked three times round the church, beating his can and chanting—

"Me ran tan, tan,  
This is the sound of my old tin can;  
Reuben and Matty's been fighting again;  
The folks in the town all cry shame.

Matty raced Reuben into the garden,  
And there she beat him to a farden ;  
Up stairs, and back o't door,  
There she made poor Reuben roar."

Another—

"Here we come with a-ran a-dan a-dang,  
Neither for your cause nor my cause  
I ride the stang.  
The stang that I ride is concerning some strife,  
One of our neighbours has been hiding\* his wife."

(Then follow names and particulars). Concluding with—

"To all you good people that live in this row,  
I'd have you take warning—  
For this is our law :—  
And if any of you beat your wives any more,  
We'll serve you the same by 'riding the stang.'  
‘God save the king.’"

When any person had become highly unpopular or detestable through vile actions or immoral conduct, his or her effigy, made of straw and attired in representative clothing, in which fireworks were inserted, was driven in a cart and set fire to, causing a great commotion and uproar in the streets. The result was often to drive the obnoxious person out of the village altogether. Less than thirty years ago stand-up fights were very common in the streets even at midday. Men used to strip down to their tights and go in for this brutal business in right good earnest. Several of the well-known "bruisers" at that time are now living, and would now be ashamed of their former connection with such degrading practices.

From about 1828 to the establishment of rural police, Watch and Ward had to be performed at various times by the inhabitants of Rothwell for self-protection, the watchfulness of the ordinary constable being insufficient. Robberies of the best houses, hen-roosts, farm yards, and garden produce were frequent, chiefly by foreigners or strange prowlers about. In the winter of 1832-3 a night-watch was organized, and the sentry place was in Mr. Young's yard, in a kitchen since burned down. In 1841-2 there were reasons again for forming, the members being provided with lanterns and staves. In 1831 the "resurrectionists" were plying their nefarious trade, and body-snatching† was a terror to the people. An instance occurred at Ardsley about this date. Several other graveyards were disturbed, but no bodies extracted. A "Grave Club" was formed at Rothwell, with the object of guarding at night a recent grave for about five

\* Beating.

† For purposes of medical dissection and the study of anatomy, a high price being given for each corpse.

weeks until the body had become decomposed. This club became the nucleus of our present "Dead Brief," and insisted at the time upon a 12-feet grave, so as to make abstraction of the corpse difficult.

An Act was passed, 5th and 6th Victoria, for the appointment and payment of parish constables. Rothwell Township, in 1839, paid £10 per annum. The constables then for Rothwell were John Smith, £5; Rothwell Haigh, Thomas Fatkin, £3; Royds Green, Joseph North, £2. Others succeeded. Considerable excitement was shewn in their election.

In 1834 the stone "Lockup," in the Woggan, was erected. It is an octagonal building, with slits in, which admit of only a dim light. It is fitted up with narrow fixed seats along the wall, and must have been anything but a comfortable place. At the front is the inscription: "The Wicked's Retreat;" and below, in Latin, "Noce te ipsum," which, literally translated, means "Know thee thyself," a well chosen, deep-meaning motto. Above the doorway is the imitation of hand-cuffs. This erection was built by Vincent Hardwick, a mason, and well-known dissipated man, and, singularly, he was the first to be imprisoned in it. It was merely a temporary place to secure unruly, drunken, or vagrant persons, who were confined in it for the night, and generally, unless the case was of grave import, taken next morning before Mr. Blayds, magistrate, at Oulton, or transferred to the more serious tribunal at Wakefield. Formerly Justice Dealtry, of Lofthouse Hall, was the presiding magistrate for the district; culprits were somewhat leniently dealt with by him. This Lockup is now unrequired, as offenders are at once conveyed to head-quarters. Village constables, being too well known and familiar, were not sufficiently feared, and thereby failed in a great measure to command order and decorum in the townships; but when the Rural Police became stationed here, being strangers, and not long resident in the place, moreover fearing nobody's frown nor courting anybody's favour, things assumed a different aspect; the order and quietude of the streets are now apparent, midnight brawls are rare and street fightings uncommon.

Extraordinary actions of criminality have transpired within the parish during the last sixty years, such as poisoning, wilful murder, and poaching, and the perpetrators have received punishment accordingly. Instances of a less serious character, such as forgery, highway robbery, and sheep stealing, have been considered deserving of death. Seeing, however, that these signs of depravity are only of rare occurrence, and happily do not represent the normal social condition of the people, particulars of them can answer no good purpose and are therefore omitted.

## THE CALVERLEY FAMILY.

Edmund Calverley, Esq., chief Lord of the Manor, is by far the largest property owner in the parish. His numerous possessions are in the townships of Oulton, Royds Green, Rothwell, and Carlton. They consist of cottages, messuages, dwelling-houses, and farm-steads. Mr. John Farrer, of Oulton, is the steward. The family seat of the Calverleys for the last century has been situated at Oulton. The present handsome stone edifice was rebuilt by the late John Calverley, Esq., in 1855, on the old site. The former building was burnt down on the evening of the 31st July, 1850, the fire being caused by the supposed carelessness of plumbers who had been working on the roof. The inside walls of the original building were of wood and brick, but were cased over with a stone frontage, and had two wings added by John Blayds, Esq., Alderman, of Leeds, during the latter part of the eighteenth century. Their *arms* are sable, an escutcheon within an orle of eight owls, argent; *crest*, a horned owl, argent.

The Calverleys were early settled at Calverley, near Bradford, and resided at the Hall. From the pedigree we learn that John le Scot came in probably with the Empress Maud, about 1141. He married Larderina, second daughter and co-heiress of Alphonsus Gropatrick, lord of Calverley, Pudsey, and several other manors. It is evident that for many generations a branch of this family acquired lands, probably for military services rendered, and were yeomen in the parish of Rothwell. For support of this statement the names of those connected with the district are selected.

*Alice Calverley*, married to Gilbert, son and heir of Gilbert de Legh, of Middleton, in the parish of Rothwell, 36 Henry VI., 1457.

*Christopher Calverley* held lands in *Rothwell* belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster, 22 Henry VIII., 1530. He died in 1546.

*Isabel Calverley* married her cousin, Gilbert Legh, Esq., of Middleton, 1546 or 1547. *Robert Calverley*, of *Rothwell*, was married there in 1548 to Joanna, daughter of — Dobson, Esq. *Stephen Calverley*, baptised at *Rothwell*, 1543. *Gilbert Calverley* died an infant, and was buried at *Rothwell*, 1555. *Robert Calverley*, of *Rothwell*, baptised 1612; died the 23rd

of February, 1613. *Anne Calverley*, buried at *Rothwell*, 1544. *William Calverley*, of *Rothwell*, born 1573; married 2nd November, 1600, to Elizabeth, daughter of — Cryer, of Grantham, Esq.; and died 1632.

*Robert Calverley*, of Oulton, baptised September 5th, 1613; died 18th April, 1674; buried at *Rothwell*. *William Calverley* lived at West Hall, *Methley*, and seized of it in 1692; died 19th March, 1699, aged 57 years; buried at the Parish Church, Leeds. He bequeathed £100 to the poor of Leeds.

*Matthew Calverley* had "Silcroft," in *Rothwell*, from his father; was born 9th May, 1649; died 15th February, 1727; and buried at *Rothwell*.

*William Calverley*, of *Rothwell*, born November, 1683; was married the 30th September, 1714, to Frances, second daughter and co-heiress of John Grosvenour, of *Rothwell*. She was born in 1686; died 30th September, 1765. Her husband died 17th March, 1729. Both were buried at *Rothwell*.

John Atkinson, West Hall,\* gentleman, from Beeston, married *Elizabeth Calverley*, 1733. *John Calverley*, Esq., of Oulton Hall, mayor of Leeds in 1785 and in 1798; born 9th June, 1753. By royal sign manual, dated 23rd February, 1807, he and his issue were authorised to take the surname and arms of Blayds only, on succeeding to the property of John Blayds, Esq., who died 11th November, 1804. *John Calverley*, Esq., died in 1827, aged 83, and was buried at *Rothwell*. *John Calverley*, Esq., of Oulton Hall, son of above, born September 11th, 1789; married 30th May, 1822; and died 28th February, 1868; having in 1852 resumed, by royal license, the name and arms of Calverley. He was buried in the new family burial place at Oulton Church.† He was father of the present Edmund Calverley, Esq.

\* Part of this building, at Newmarket, is still standing. The last heir was Leonard Atkinson, in 1768. He was extravagant, and lost in one night £11,000 by gambling. The property was mortgaged to Maude and Lee, solicitors, Wakefield, but afterwards bought by John Calverley, Esq., and is now in possession of Edmund Calverley, Esq. Leonard Atkinson, Esq., had a colliery at Skipton in Craven, where he died.

† 1827, December 7th, the foundation-stone of the beautiful new church at Oulton, near Leeds, was laid by John Blayds, Esq., of Leeds and Oulton, who munificently bequeathed the funds necessary for building and endowing the edifice, which is dedicated to St. John, and erected from plans by Rickman and Hutchinson, architects.—*Annals of Leeds*. It is in the Early English Pointed Style. The present incumbent is Rev. R. H. Hamilton, M.A.; value of the benefice is £305 yearly; patron, E. Calverley, Esq.

## NOTABLE PEOPLE.

*John Forman*, a native of Rothwell, near Leeds, in the year 1461, endowed Magdalen College, Oxford, with a fellowship. The holder of it was to be one of his own kindred; or, in default of that, one born in or near to the parishes of Rothwell and Ruston. Of the first of which he was a native; and of the second, vicar, for above fifty years. In January, 1502, he founded a school at Ruston, or Royston, supported by a grant of a tenement, garden, and lands, for the maintenance of a schoolmaster.—(*Lupton's Wakefield Worthies*.) In the earliest years of the Rothwell Church Registers the respected name of Forman appears.

*George Linley* was born at Glass Houses, near the Race Course, in the parish of Rothwell,\* 1798. He was a great violoncello player, principal in the Italian Opera, London, and a popular composer, and sweet melodist. Amongst the most popular of the hundreds of songs Linley composed may be mentioned: "Thou art gone from my gaze," "Little Nell," "I cannot mind my wheel, mother," "Constance," "Ever of thee."

He also wrote two or three operas, which were produced at London with considerable success. As to the entertainments, "Mary, Queen of Scots," &c., poems, pamphlets, criticisms, satires, &c., they are almost beyond enumeration for their number and variety. His last poem, the "Showman," was finished but a short time before his death. Linley was a kind-hearted, generous man, a true friend, and a genial, merry companion. He died peacefully, after a long and trying illness, in the full possession of his intellect and knowledge of his approaching dissolution. He was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, on Friday, 15th September,

\* 1773, born 9th June, John, son of Shirley Lindley; baptized 9th July, from Glasshouse. No doubt members of the same family.

1865. He left a widow, two sons, and a daughter to mourn his loss.

In corroboration of the fact that Mr. Linley was a native of Rothwell parish, it may be stated that one of his sons, about thirty years since, gave a private concert, at the "Black Bull," Rothwell, in honour of his father, and because he was born in the parish.

*William Taylor* was master potter, at Swillington Bridge, about eighty years ago. He composed a set of Anthems, dedicated to the Marchioness of Hertford. These Anthems were published by subscription, and publicly performed in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and forty years ago were sung in Rothwell Church.

## REV. THOMAS TAYLOR.

1738 TO 1816.

An eminent and honoured itinerant Wesleyan preacher, was a native of Royds Green, in the parish of Rothwell. He was born on the 11th November, 1738. The register of his baptism is stated thus: "Thomas, the son of Thomas Taylor,\* baptized the 10th day of December, 1738, and seventh son, Rhods." His father had been previously a tanner at Oulton, but, being unfortunate in business, became reduced in circumstances, and removed from Oulton to Royds Green, about a mile and a-half distant, where this son Thomas was born, and there he was employed as a farm labourer. Other branches of the Taylors were yeomen and clothiers, and in a good position. In August, 1740, his wife, whose name was Mary, died, and so the infant Thomas was

\* In 1730, Matthew and Mark, ye sons of Thomas Taylor, tanner, baptized the 7th day October, Oulton. 1733, Samuel, son of Thomas Taylor, labourer, Rhodes, 27th day May, buried.—(Church Registers.) See also "Old Trades," pages 162 and 163, Clothing and Tanning.

bereaved of the loving attentions of a good mother, who bore an excellent character. His father, having a large family to bring up (other seven children, the first born being a daughter), married again; but it appears that he died before young Thomas had attained his sixth year. The second wife survived her husband, and she proved a good step-mother, particularly to Thomas.

In an Autobiography of himself, published in 1804, he says: "I had pretty early something of a desire and turn for learning. My father and mother being Presbyterians, I got the Assembly's Catechism off by heart, when I was but *four* years old, and said it to the minister. I had some visits from the Divine Spirit very early; but having no one to encourage me they wore off. My natural temper was active, wild, and very mischievous." He often played pranks and got into trouble. He barely escaped death one time by accidentally slipping into the river Calder; at another time was fiercely attacked by a bull-dog, but in both cases providentially delivered. At seven years of age, being of a passionate nature, and having contracted the habit of cursing and swearing, he became a young reprobate. When about ten years of age a brother wished to put him to the business of a clothier, but he detested the very name of this occupation and would not agree to it. He ran away and spurned all control. He increased in wickedness and contracted vile habits through bad company. When about seventeen years of age he had the curiosity to go and hear that eminent servant of God, the Rev. George Whitefield. The wonderful countenance, and the amazing power of the orator preacher, made a strong impression upon him, but only of short duration. He began to read good books, such as "Pilgrim's Progress," "Alleine's Alarm." These affected him deeply, still his wandering and unsettled disposition was not overcome. A party of horse were recruiting in Wakefield for the "Seven Years' War." He applied, but was below the standard, and therefore refused. After this he turned to drinking and forsook the place of worship and the perusal of good books. In coming home one night, partly intoxicated, there was a ferry to cross,\* and, whilst waiting for the boat, he fell into the river, but it came up in time to save him. In 1758 he became convinced of sin, under the influence of a sermon preached by an Independent minister, and the disgust at seeing the ill behaviour of drunken men who tried to interrupt the discourse, he became determined to lead a different and more becoming life. He was persuaded to join the Methodists. He was learning some business, but does not state the nature

\* Probably at Bottomboat.

of it. When nearly out of his apprenticeship he was invited to go to Wakefield Races, but was able to manfully refuse. Shortly after he became fully converted, and felt entirely happy in his religious life. He thought the means of grace would be more abundant in Leeds, but in this was deceived, finding little encouragement there. He met with a few Methodists at another place, and was especially edified under the preaching of that "plain, honest man," Paul Greenwood. He now began to think that he had a call to preach. He attempted it in a humble way and was successful, believing that he had Divine assistance. He became somewhat popular, but felt his defects of learning; he, however, essayed to refute certain doctrines which he believed were unorthodox. He confesses that he was rather tinctured with Antinomianism. After again hearing Mr. Whitefield and a Mr. Hanby, whose discourses struck him as highly evangelical in tone, he now became in love with Methodist doctrines and views, and, much to the regret of his own people, accepted an invitation to preach in the Methodist Preaching House. He held forth now altogether amongst Methodist congregations. He met with Mr. Wesley at Birstal, and had an interview with him, and was by him received with great affability, for which the founder of Methodism was noted. He was desired to attend the London Conference. He feared that his views would not bear cross-questioning, and would be disapproved of by that conclave, but he passed without trouble, and in 1761 was appointed as his *first* circuit to Wales, being the first travelling preacher of this connexion in those parts. When on the journey, at Bristol, before arriving at his final destination, this remark was made to him by a preacher there: "You seem pretty well dressed, and will hold out well enough for a year, but you must expect nothing to buy any more clothes when those are worn out." He had many hardships to endure in his ministerial journeys throughout Wales, and had few material comforts. Often he preached out of doors in all sorts of weather, the people "being ill provided with convenient places to preach in." His efforts, however, were rewarded: many joined the society, and the people became attached to him. He attended the Leeds Conference, in August, 1762, and was sent back into Pembrokeshire, having had to ride 300 miles on horseback. At one time he lost his way amongst the mountains, and his horse stuck fast in a bog, and he had to suffer the pangs of hunger all night. At Tenby he was brought up before the mayor and accused of causing noise and disturbance in the streets, and was about to be committed to prison; he, however, so well defended himself, and took shelter under the New Act of Toleration, that they were fain to let him depart in peace that time. He afterwards preached to large congregations of ignorant, and almost heathen people, in the same place. He next attended the London Conference. He was appointed for Castlebar, in Ireland. He confesses that his attacks on the Papists, for their belief and

practices, were unwise and impolitic, and on several occasions, if the military had not interfered on his account, his life would have been sacrificed, so exasperated were these people. He speaks, however, well of the hospitality and warmth of the Irish character. He began to study the classics, which were useful in his future ministrations. Along with William Pennington a blessed work was carried on at Cork. Out-door preachings, prayer meetings, &c., and strict discipline enforced. The Rev. John Wesley, in his Ecclesiastical History, speaks well of these two devoted men.

In 1765 he came over to England to the Manchester Conference, and visited his relations in Yorkshire. He afterwards set out for Scotland. Here he did not meet with much appreciation, nor were his doctrines liked. He had a difficulty in getting his hymns and their tunes into working order. He rejoiced, however, over some results of his labours. His next remove was to Chester, where he married, but he does not state the name of his spouse, but speaks of her descent from an eminent French Protestant family, and adds she was of a delicate constitution. He preached at Salop one Sunday morning, in the Market place, and "met with no other molestation than a few clods and small stones." In the evening he appeared again, and was set on and kicked by the mob, and dragged before the Justice; but he took the preacher's part, and Mr. Taylor left much bedaubed with dirt. He was requested by Mr. Wesley to go over to Ireland to arrange confused affairs. The voyage was dreaded on account of his wife's condition. In Ireland his first child was born. In 1770 he left Cork. His next circuit was Manchester, and whilst there published the discourse upon "Thoughts, Words, and Actions," entitled "A Cry to Professors, Conscience, &c." Next he came to Birstal (John Wesley's first preaching place in Yorkshire)—the society was miserably small. Because of close study he was accused of pride and stateliness. He left here gladly, and was stationed at Bradford to his satisfaction. Many converts were added. He had the fever here in 1780. His next place was Keighley. Whilst holding forth at Padiham, an opposition minister, dressed in his clerical costume, dragged Mr. Taylor down from his elevation in the open street. He was at last obliged to adjourn to the preaching house. In 1776 he attended Conference; returned to Keighley; helped to bring about the erection of a large chapel at Colne. Mr. Wesley came to open it. On the occasion the timbers and gallery gave way, and many people were severely injured. He continued to make himself proficient in classical studies. At York he met with kind friends, but with a limited number of hearers. During a Conference week, at London, he preached in several of the chapels acceptably. Of Sheffield he speaks with rapture, pronouncing the people loving and friendly.

In a second part of his "Experiences" \* he again visited Halifax, 1784, and found a sad falling off. Afterwards at Leeds, where the members were undisciplined and were a great trial to his patience. He complains of immorality and inconsistency amongst them. He suffers with a severe attack of rheumatic fever and general bodily weakness, the effects of privation and close study in compiling a "Concordance" by candle-light unscreened. Was removed to Hull, and had sea baths for his own complaint and that of his weakly son. Had two providential escapes from a watery grave in this district. In one case a bridge had to be crossed, and, though warned of its unsafety, persisted in riding over; whilst doing so it broke down, but in the fall neither horse or rider were injured.

Service in Church hours and sacrament, given by Dissenting ministers, were bones of contention, and divided the society, especially at Liverpool. In rather an egotistical manner he states; "I, on the 16th day of November, 1791, committed the unpardonable offence in beginning the service at half-past ten in the forenoon." He was somewhat censured in Conference for causing a division, but was allowed to continue his ministry. Much discussion and variety of opinion on ecclesiastical affairs were now rife. In 1796, July 25th, at the London Conference, Mr. Thomas Taylor was chosen president, and Dr. Coke secretary. A new and severe trial awaited them. Mr. Kilham, one of the itinerant preachers, was brought up, charged with writing a libellous pamphlet, entitled, "The Progress of Liberty," in which he passes some severe strictures upon the conduct of his fellow-ministers. Not answering the charges brought forward to the satisfaction of the Conference assembled, he is expelled. Afterwards originates the New Connexionists, or Kilhamites, as they were early called. It is only just to state that Mr. Kilham and his party proposed that future conferences should consist of an equal number of preachers and laymen; but this proposition was rejected. In 1809 Mr. Taylor was again president. In 1812, the venerated supernumerary attended the Leeds Conference.

That Mr. Taylor was gifted with preaching power is proved from several independent witnesses, and the desired publication of some of his sermons prefixed to his Autobiography. In the Memoir of James North is this allusion: "Mr. Thomas Taylor paid us a visit at Scarcroft, in 1762. He had no sooner read his text, when his mind was so transported with a discovery of the mercy and love of God, that he quite forgot his text, and for more than an hour he con-

\* Printed and Published, at Leeds, February 20th, 1804.

tinued to praise the Lord in such a manner as was truly astonishing."

Having engaged to preach in the Bolton chapels, on Sunday, 13th October, 1816, and the following day, he arrived at the house of his esteemed friend, Roger Holland, Esq., of Birch House, near Bolton. On the preceding Tuesday, in apparently his usual state of health, he attended to his studies, and walked to see a few poor people. On Saturday night he had two violent attacks of his chest complaint, which greatly enfeebled him. He, however, persisted in preaching next day: in the morning, from the text, "Our light affliction." It was observed by his hearers that he was particularly animated, and that his views of glory in the discussion of his subjects were more than usually bright. The morning exertion had a bad effect upon him, causing shortness of breath. He was recommended to forego the evening service, but would not consent. It is remarked that, in an animated discourse, in which he seemed almost inspired, he set forth the deep things of God. During the sermon he raised his venerable form in the pulpit, and said, "I should like to die like an old soldier, sword in hand."\* He suffered afterwards with an attack in his breast which painfully interrupted his sleep. Awoke next morning, spent two hours visiting the sick, and preached in the evening. He retired to rest, cheerful, nothing remarkable being observed about him; not joining the family at breakfast at the usual time next morning, his room was entered, and there it was discovered that he had laid quietly down previously to undressing himself, and that the spirit had fled from his sainted form, which was calm and unruffled. This was on the 16th October, 1816, when in his 79th year, after a laborious, faithful, and eminently-successful ministry for the space of fifty-six years.

\* Montgomery's well-known ode, "Servant of God, well done," was founded upon this noble thought and expression, and in commemoration of his death. The writer of this History would be glad to see his portrait.

Physically he was strong and well formed, but completely worn out in his Master's service. Next to Wesley he filled the place of an effective man *longer* than any other Methodist preacher.

The next Conference passed one of the highest eulogiums upon his character, works, and attainments possible to be given to mortal man.

### WESLEYAN METHODISM.

It is noteworthy that no religious sect, independent of the Established Church of England, has obtained a footing, or progressed in the parish, except the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists. It is proposed therefore to give a brief sketch of their history.

In 1747, seventeen years after the introduction of Methodist tenets by the founder, John Wesley, in 1730, Methodist preachers visited Oulton, and preached in cottage houses, for the simple reason that in the early stage the members of the society were too few or too poor to raise money sufficient to build chapels or preaching houses set entirely apart for worship.\*

Rothwell had one of the first Methodist preaching houses in Yorkshire, for in 1766 two aged people kindly formed one in Butcher Lane, on the site of the present building, for

\* A community of Roman Catholics existed in the neighbourhood of Middleton, Rothwell Haigh, and Thwaite Gate, from 1750 to 1804. Mass houses were in connection with Middleton Hall, Ebor House, and Stourton Lodge. In 1776, James Gage was minister or priest; in 1783, Mr. E. Hatton; and in 1804, Rev. Joseph Smith. A small body of Calvinists or Baptists met in a cottage in Shaw Ditch, and were supported by Joseph Stephenson, Esq., of Little Preston, who occasionally attended their meetings (on Mr. Thomas Stephenson's authority). In Parson's ecclesiastical portion of the History of Leeds, alluding to the Inghamites, he enumerates Rothwell as possessing one of these churches, in 1834.

this purpose, and in 1799 it was formally conveyed to the society by deed. The widow of James North (a devoted local preacher before alluded to) was concerned in the transaction, and in doing this, either carried out her husband's wish, or did it in memory of his religious principles. For the following authoritative information upon the point, the writer is indebted to Mr. J. H. Wice, Chapel Secretary of the Wakefield Circuit, copied from the said original deed:—

Rothwell Chapel. Dated 7th November, 1799, and is entitled "Conveyance of a Methodist meeting house in Rothwell." Martha North, widow of James North, and George North, eldest son and heir-at-law of Jane North, conveyed to thirteen trustees the house, yard, stable, &c., which had been occupied as a Methodist meeting house, and situate in Butcher Lane, Rothwell. The consideration money paid was five shillings. The deed was enrolled in Chancery on the 13th December, 1799. It contains the following:—"This deed, when in custody of me, the undersigned copying clerk, at my house, a rat or rats in the night made good their entrance (a circumstance which never happened before), and so mutilated this deed, with two others, which is the cause of its being thus repaired by me, as then seen.—T. DODD, Conveying Clerk at the Enrolment Offices."

Mr. Wice adds this comment:—"The probability is that James North, and also his father, John North, were Methodists, and that they altered a dwelling house or houses into a place of worship, and on the death of James North, his widow, and also his eldest son, a linen draper at Wakefield, were anxious to secure the chapel permanently to the society, and conveyed it to thirteen trustees for the nominal sum of five shillings."

During the process of converting the preaching house into a larger chapel, persecution was rife, for it is reported that thrice the walls were thrown down by some malicious persons during the night time.

Soon after the completion of the building, a strange man, partly under the influence of intoxication, and evidently no friend to the new sect, riding on horseback during service, entered at one door, rode round the place, and retired out of the other, both being open during summer time. This was in order to frighten the congregation. Such conduct, however, could not be tolerated, and he was seized that very day, and lodged securely in the Rothwell gaol. During his con-

finement there, news came that his wife was ill; shortly after she died. He also expired in the gaol. The people thought that it was a judgment upon him from heaven for so bold and profane an act. This incident is given on the authority of the late old Mrs. Seanor, and is handed down to their children by those who were eyewitnesses of it; moreover, the account was inserted in a religious magazine some years after.

About eighty years ago, the interior of the chapel was fit up in a primitive style. The main of the body was furnished with benches, and had a rail down the middle, separating, by their own accord, the male from the female portion of the congregation, the men entering at the right door, and the women at the left. In all probability there were then galleries, as there now is; there was also a large brick fireplace for warming the chapel. The fittings were simple; and for lighting purposes candles were used, inserted in the large brass chandelier suspended from the middle of the ceiling with a pulley and chain. It is pretty plain that the chapel has been enlarged two or three times: this may be seen on an examination of the walls going towards the new vestry. The entrance has at first been at the side, and not at the front as now, for the marks of the gable end are plainly visible. The sides of the old building have been extended a few yards, and made into the present frontage.

Mr. Wesley, in his "Journal," records his visits to Rothwell (five times in eight years). Unfortunately, his account of the place in its social condition or general aspect is a mere blank. Of course, the grand object of his devoted life was to win souls to God, and he paid little attention to anything else. He says:—

"*On Sunday, August 9th, 1772, I preached at Rothwell, in Thorner Church, and at Leeds.\**

\* The service must have been early at Rothwell, for the road to Thorner is very circuitous and long, *via* Rothwell, Oulton, Swillington, Garforth, Barwick, &c., to Thorner, perhaps for the afternoon service, and then to Leeds for the evening service.—(G. W. B.)

*"Tuesday, 23rd April, 1776.—I preached in the 'Press Yard,'\* at Rothwell, and have seldom seen a congregation so moved. I then spoke severally to the class of children, and found every one of them rejoicing in the love of God. It is particularly remarkable that the work of God broke out all at once; they have all been justified, and me clearly sanctified, within these last six weeks."*

*"Monday, June 16th, 1777.—I met the class of children at Rothwell. This consisted last year of eleven young maidens; they are increased to twenty. I think seventeen or eighteen of them are now rejoicing in the love of God, and their whole behaviour is suitable thereto, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour.*

*"Thursday, April 28th, 1779.†—I preached at Rothwell and Leeds.*

*"Wednesday, 12th April, 1780.‡—After preaching at Rothwell, I inquired what was become of that lovely class of little girls, most of them believers, whom I had met here a few years since. I found those of them that had pious parents remain to this day. But all of them whose parents did not fear God are gone back into the world."*

About ninety years ago, Rothwell was visited by some of the early and afterwards renowned preachers. William Bramwell and John Nelson, the grandson of the John Nelson who first introduced Methodism into Yorkshire, used to preach in the chapel, about 1800. At that time the circuits were large, the preachers were few, and long distances had to be travelled; and it was a matter of necessity for each preacher to be provided with horse and saddle-bags. In 1792, the Leeds Circuit included Kirkstall Forge, Bramley, Hare-

\* It is understood that Mr. Wesley preached in the Gaol Fold, which may have been used for the pressing of men into military and naval service for the American War, and so receives the name. No yard of this name now exists: if it had been a personal one, it would in all probability have still retained it. He is said to have held forth once in the street, near Mary Dobson's shop; certainly in the chapel, and perhaps at the Cross. "About 1755 or 6, it is traditionally handed down that the Rev. George Whitfield preached in Rothwell Church, and that the edifice was so crammed to hear him that the people stuck to the windows like pigeons."—(James Copley.)

† In this year the Methodist Hymn Book was published.

‡ Wesley was then 77 years of age; few men are so active and hard-working at that period of life.

wood, Chapeltown, Rothwell, Hunslet, Eccup, Thorner, Seacroft, Keswick, Aberford, Stourton, Bromley. In 1796, Wakefield Circuit took in Horbury, Carlton, Cudworth, Roystone, Staincross, Barnsley, Crigglestone, &c.

From the Diary in the "Life of the Rev. Joseph Entwistle," who travelled in Wakefield Circuit (written by his son), we get a glimpse of the spiritual condition of Methodism in Rothwell and district:—

*"1794, April 15th.—Had a blessed season at Woodlesford at night. We continued in prayer near three hours after preaching, and God was remarkably present. My own soul was made like a watered garden. Blessed be God for ever and ever.*

*"Sunday, Easter Day, 1794.—Hunslet at ten, and at Rothwell at noon. Our lovefeast followed. The place was exceedingly crowded. Many persons were much affected, and some were in such distress that we were obliged to spend most of the time in singing and prayer. At seven in the evening, I preached again with much enlargement.*

*"Monday, 21st April.—Preached at Hunslet at noon to a very large congregation; and in the evening at Rothwell, from Rom. v. 10. The congregation was large, and the power of God was present to wound and to heal. I never was more sensibly assisted since I first began to speak for God, though much indisposed in body through fatigue. After sermon, we continued about one hour in prayer. Many were under deep distressing convictions, and several found peace.*

*"Monday, May 26th.—Preached at Rothwell in the evening: the congregation was exceedingly large. The power of God rested on the whole assembly. We continued two hours in prayer after the sermon. Many were in deep distress; strong cries and tears were offered up unto the Lord, and some burdened souls were enabled to rejoice. Oh, what a glorious work is the Lord working in this place! When I was walking from Mr. N.'s (Mr. North's) to the chapel, the streets were crowded with droves of people, coming to hear God's word. I found it very easy to preach, and was exceedingly blessed and quickened. Thanks be to God.*

*"Tuesday, May 27th, 1794.—Preached at Rothwell again this morning at five. The congregation was large and attentive. Spent most of the forenoon in conversing with persons who had been lately awakened, and in visiting the sick, in which my own soul was greatly refreshed. I was well satisfied with the accounts which many gave of their awakening and conversion. My heart was like a flame of fire all day. In the evening, preached at Woodlesford in a large barn. I think upwards of five hundred persons*

were present. I think good was done. O, Lord, give me a greater zeal for thy glory! May I be willing to impart, not the gospel of God only, but also my own soul, for the sake of sinners!

"1794.—So great was the success which attended the united labours of the Leeds preachers this year, that the number of members in the circuit rose from 2,120 to 3,400, a number exceeding that of every other circuit in the Connexion, not even London excepted, which until now had usually maintained its pre-eminence."

Samuel Bradburn, the so-called "Demosthenes of Methodism," on account of his powerful eloquence, preached at Woodlesford on April 30th, 1784. In 1806-7, he was stationed in Wakefield Circuit. Lofthouse having then no chapel, service was performed in a humble cottage at Mr. Parker's, Langley. Bradburn being a little man, a large "cobbin" of coal was always saved for him to stand upon, and the back of an arm chair answered the purpose of a pulpit.

In 1793, William, son of Laurence and Elizabeth Vivers, was born at Rothwell. He began to preach as an itinerant when only twenty-one years of age. He was considered an able preacher, and in his day one of the best expounders of theology. On account of his quiet and somewhat tedious manner of delivery, he was not popular. He was appointed to good circuits, such as St. Peter's, and Brunswick, Leeds, and was living in 1838 and later; but accounts of his after career and death are not at present forthcoming.

The Rev. William Heath, Wesleyan minister, came in 1808 to reside at Rothwell, having had to resign the regular ministry on account of domestic affairs. At first he occupied his own property in the Town Street, where Mr. Marshall, the postmaster, lives. His wife, along with Miss T. Farrah, had a grocer's shop there during Mr. Heath's itineracy. In 1799, Mr. Heath's name appears on the Wakefield Plan as a supernumerary. He was, through marriage, in pretty good circumstances. He preached regularly at the chapel, and at other places in the circuit, and very often

visited the gaol prisoners with a view of reforming their morals. In person he was thin, and of middle height. He seems to have had the reputation of being a punctual man—self-sacrificing, and desirous of fulfilling his duty; so much so, that even in his seventieth year he refused to give way, in order to let any other preacher officiate in the Rothwell pulpit, though requested to do so by the stewards. When the Rev. J. Wilson was appointed to the circuit, and wished to preach, he would not allow him. Mr. Wilson followed Mr. Heath up the pulpit stairs; but still it was no use. Mr. Heath took for his text on the occasion, "He is of one mind, and who can turn him" (Job). At this point a few particulars of his early life may be acceptable. He was born at Chester in the year 1761, of reputable and pious parents, who, it is supposed, were the first Methodists in that place. He received an excellent education. The circumstances connected with his conversion are striking and affecting. In 1780, when about nineteen years of age, he accompanied a young friend to Chester races. When the races were over, four young gentlemen, well mounted on spirited animals, in order to prolong the sport, thought for a wager they would run a race two and two in contrary directions. About midway, when in full speed, instead of passing each other, a collision took place. The consequences were fearful. One of the riders and a horse were killed on the spot, and the others had their limbs fractured. The affair so preyed on Mr. Heath's and his companion's mind, that they both determined from that day to lead a new life, and at last presented themselves as candidates for the ministry. He retired from business, and resided in his own house, the first in Wood Lane, where he died, after a somewhat protracted illness, on Sunday, February 26th, 1837, aged 76 years, after being a preacher in the Wesleyan Connexion for fifty-one years. He bequeathed £20 to the trustees of John Street Chapel, in his native city; £10 to the Wesleyan Missionary Society; and £10 to the British and Foreign Bible Society. His wife

(whose maiden name was Mary Dibb), survived him seven years; she died in 1844, aged 86 years. Their tombstone is situated at the right hand side of the flagged causeway, about half way betwixt the south-east entrance gate and the Church porch, Rothwell. Below the memorial names are these lines, taken from the Methodist Hymn Book (hymn 491, verse 2):—

“ We have laid up our love and treasure above,  
Though our bodies continue below.  
The redeemed of the Lord, we remember His Word,  
And with singing to Paradise go.”

A stationed minister in Rothwell is no novelty: the third minister of the circuit, for the space of about eleven years, resided here. The *first* was the Rev. James Wilson, in 1831. He, at the commencement, lived in the house near the Cross, now occupied by Miss Hindle. Here he and his children had typhus fever. One of them died, and was buried in Rothwell Wesleyan Chapel, named Alfred (an infant), on December 3rd, 1831. Mr. Wilson recovered, but another death ensued. Michael Parker, of Lofthouse, a good, old Methodist class-leader, who was attached to Mr. Wilson, in this extremity volunteered to wait upon him. Being a cloth weaver at the factory, in Stead's time, and then short of work, he could the better afford to do this noble duty. After six weeks' close attention he took the complaint, and could not shake it off; he died, and thus his life was sacrificed by his devotion; he was buried 1st January, 1832. Mr. Wilson, after his recovery, removed from this unfortunate house to the one at the back of the chapel and adjoining the old vestry. This served afterwards for succeeding ministers. In 1835 the Rev. William Parker came, and stayed about one year. From 1836–8 the Rev. Robert Bond resided at Rothwell. He possessed literary tastes and was an active-minded man. He was indefatigable in gathering subscriptions towards the chapel improvement. In 1839 the Rev. William Wilson followed, remaining about two years. In

1842 the Rev. Alexander Hume, a returned missionary from the Island of Ceylon, succeeded. On one occasion he had a warm private discussion on vexed doctrinal points with the vicar. He stayed about a year. He finished his course at Stalybridge not very long since.

For the space of thirty-four years Rothwell has been without a stationed minister. At some of the Wakefield quarterly meetings the matter was brought up again, and it was at last decided that the fourth and youngest minister should reside at Rothwell, this place being one of the oldest established in Methodism, and one of the most important on the plan. So in August, 1876, the Rev. William Goodhugh Dawson was appointed by the Conference to this circuit, and, by the invitation of the chapel stewards, desired to live at Rothwell, with the belief that he would be beneficial to the cause.

The Rev. John Wesley little thought that his labours in a village so unpretentious would result in the present aspect of things. That the seed sown in ground apparently so unpropitious would, in less than a hundred years, result in the establishment of a society of 200 members, and a regular congregation of about 300 persons attending chapel of the Methodist persuasion; with a resident minister, having received college training under Wesleyan auspices, and residing in one of the best and most desirable villas in the place.

Several ministers of the gospel who have passed some of their probation in the Wakefield circuit have risen to the highest eminence in the Connexion, as Presidents of the Conference. The number of worthies who have faithfully preached Christ within the walls of this plain but hallowed chapel is legion. Some, but not all, of those selected have finished their honoured labour and gone to their reward. The noble and masterly *Robert Newton*, the authoritative *William Atherton*, the genial and warm-hearted *G. B. McDonald*, the tender and poetic *McLean*, the wise and

beautifully-minded *Entwistle*, the clever but somewhat arbitrary *Gervase Smith*, the interesting and lovable *Benjamin Clough* (one of the first Wesleyan foreign missionaries), the learned *R. M. Willcox*, the earnest and hard-working *C. Rawlings*, the kind-hearted *Samuel Simpson*, the devoted *Wright Shovelton*, always about his heavenly Master's business, and who took the great founder as his model. The thorough and exhaustive expounder *W. Ford*, the impassioned and eloquent *Illingworth*, the powerful reasoner *R. Bell*, the theological *T. Kent*, the acute and original *R. Posnett*. The majestic and dignified *T. Pearson* (a returned West-Indian missionary), the charming *P. N. Andrews*, and the vigorous and racy *R. W. Starr*, a noble trio, mentally and physically. The clear and able doctrinal teacher *J. Rhodes*, the student-like and deep-thinking *E. Salt*, the prayerful *I. E. Page*, the fluent *Whitamore*, the pleasant and naturallyeloquent *R. Cooke*, and many others, representing the graces of intellect and the attractive charms of religion, many of whom, by their gentlemanly bearing and kind manners, have formed lasting friendships during their too short tenure as circuit ministers, and whose names are as the fragrance of sweet-scented flowers, and whose actions and works call up blessed memories.

Rothwell, as a parish, and even as a place in proportion to its size, has furnished in times past a larger proportion of local preachers than any other part of the circuit, Wakefield alone excepted: it is, therefore, fitting and just that a passing notice of some of the *oldest* should be given. Many of these humble, but devoted men, after working hard during the week at their daily avocation, on the Sabbath day cheerfully buckle on the spiritual armour, and go forth to denounce sin and to do good to others. Many a small country chapel, or out-of-the-way religious assembly, would be without a preacher, and therefore disappointed, but for the self-denying efforts of the local brethren. The oldest veteran, whose name still appears on the plan, is the hard-working *William*

*Wrigglesworth*, road-mender, a droll, but acceptable preacher, now grown feeble and trembling; next *Caleb Copley*, joiner, who commenced his career in 1833, and has during the period of forty-three years earnestly proclaimed the truth; *Samuel Batty*, draper, thirty-three years; *John Walker*, tailor, Oulton, twenty-nine years, and others. These have been spared to carry on the blessed work. Many have died in the meantime: especially we notice the respected and venerable *John Hampson*, who, when six years of age, became blind from the throwing of a stone, permanently injuring one eye and causing the other to lose its sight. For many years he ably and regularly occupied the pulpit amongst the Independents, near Selby. Afterwards he settled down at Rothwell, and got his living by basket and door-mat making. He became one of the local preachers amongst the Wesleyans. He had good natural abilities and was a sound, doctrinal preacher. When unable to work, his deserving case was brought before the Worn-out Local Preachers' Society, from whose funds he received a pension until the time of his death, which happened March 12th, 1864, when in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

At Waterloo, early on, there was a number of Wesleyan Methodists. One of the first, living in the neighbourhood, was a John Hutchinson. He died about 1800. After meeting for some time in cottages for worship, the little society wished to have a more public place. William Fenton, Esq. (coal proprietor), kindly allowed them to fit up the School-room at Ingram Place, and occupy it as a Wesleyan chapel. The eminent and honoured Rev. John Rattenbury once held forth in it, and many other travelling and local preachers. Until about 1840 it continued in possession of the Wesleyan Connexion. However, one Sunday a preacher, from Leeds, in his sermon, spoke against racing and sporting characters. This coming to Mr. Kirkby Fenton's ears, he thought the preacher alluded to him, and, as a punishment, though remonstrated with, he would not allow them to use

it again as a Methodist chapel. For many years it was employed as a Day School for the children of the miners at Waterloo and district, under Mr. Waterhouse. In 1867 it was licensed as a preaching place for the Established Church. It is now enlarged and improved, and taken on a lease by the School Board authorities for a district school under the new Educational Act.

From the Stewards' books is extracted a few of the names of Rothwell chapel-goers forty years ago:—

In 1831—*John Burton* (joiner), *Benj. Lancaster* (joiner and builder), *John Normington*, *Mrs. Nelson*, *William North* (butcher), *James Swift* (Carlton), *Mrs. Storey* (Butcher Lane), *Thomas Tasker* (butcher), *John Westmorland*, *Mr. Jewison* (coroner), *George Wadsworth* (poor law reliever), *Wm. Burton*, *Miss Walton*, *Mrs. Houson*, *Benj. Blackburn* (tailor and pig killer), *Wm. Clarkson*, *John Tullan*, *John North*, *John Morley*, *Robert Waterton*, *Mr. Thomas Nelson* (Church Field), *Mr. Ramskill* (druggist), and others. In 1832—*Dr. Seth Mitchell*, *Mr. Robert Naylor* (currier), *Mr. Gillgrass* (solicitor), *Betty Smith*. In 1833—*Mr. John Ken-drew*, *Miss Fenton*, *Henry Alderson* (plumber), *Thomas Bilsborough*, and many others.

STEWARDS.—1822 to 26, were *Thomas Hardaker*; 1826-35, *William Clarkson* and *William North*; 1835, *James Young*; 1845, *Benjamin Walker*; 1846, *Allen Edmundson* and *John Clarkson*; 1851, *Allen Edmundson* and *Edward Simpson*; 1854, *A. Edmundson* and *Samuel Batty*; 1858, *S. Batty* and *E. B. Long*; 1866, *S. Batty* and *Benj. Clark*; 1874, *S. Batty* and *J. R. Seanor*.

TRUSTEES.—In 1845, were *James North*, *Joseph Scott*, *John Gregory*, *Stephen Hargett*, *Joseph Aurundel*, *James Young*, *George Dobson*, *Thos. Hardaker*, *John Burton*, *Allen Edmundson*, *James Hainsworth*, *Charles Turner*, *Alexander Mackie*, *Robert Jefferson Mackie*, *William Toft*, *Samuel Fearnside*, *Samuel Drew*, *William Foxall*, *J. W. Clark*, *Joseph Shaw*, *William Turner* (all deceased); *Thomas Young*, now living (1877, August). In 1868, in addition to those of the above then living, were *Joseph Hargreaves*, *James Fawcett*, *James Aspdin*, *Thomas Wright* (since deceased). The present (1877) are *Thomas Young*, *Samuel Batty*, *Benj. Clark*, *George Lister*, *Jabez R. Seanor*, *George Armitage*, *James Young*, jun., *Richard Sykes*, *Jas. Henry Cookson*, *John Wilson*, *Jonathan Haigh Wice*, *George Crawshaw*, *Edward Alcock*, *Samuel Seanor*.

CHAPEL-KEEPERS.—In 1823, *Thomas Wilson*; 1832, *John Brown*; 1833, *Joseph Westmorland*; 1835, *James Hainsworth*; 1838, *Abraham White*; 1850, *Thomas Lunn*, and *Mary*, his wife, until 1877.

For chapel anniversaries, or in order to raise money for alterations, &c., popular preachers were engaged from time to time. In 1828, *Edward Brook*, Esq., known by the name of "Squire" Brook, preached at Rothwell; a collection was made for repairs in the chapel, and realised £7 8s. 1d. In 1829, the noted *Mr. Wm. Dawson*, who had a wonderful dramatic power, preached; the collection amounted to £5 10s. In 1832, the great *Robert Newton* was invited over, and the amount obtained was £6 11s. 6d. In 1858, June, the Rev. *William Morley Punshon*, the celebrated pulpit orator, preached the anniversary sermons, and the collection amounted to £11 8s. 3d.

The mode of lighting the chapel up to 1845 was by candles. *Tommy Wilson* and others had to keep going round the chapel snuffing the miserable lights, a process which would certainly divert the attention of the hearers from the discourse of the preacher. After the above date, the trustees decided to have oil lamps as a substitute and an improvement. In 1856 gas was introduced with its more brilliant illumination, and the old chandelier and its appendages were done away with.

In 1826 the singing of female and male voices was far from being despisable. Under the direction of *Mr. Thomas Rylands*, a good and enthusiastic musician, who played the bass viol, a heartiness was infused into this part of the service. The names of some of the singers at that time were *Elizabeth* and *Harriet Rylands*, *Mary Stringer*, *Grace Jagger*, *Jane Gill*, *William North*, *James Morton*, *Joseph Horner*, and *Joseph Jackson*, with a good bass voice, and several others. The violoncello was disposed of, and for many years there was no musical instrument at all. The singing then was carried on irregularly, and the opening services depended far too much upon the courage of those casually disposed to strike the tunes. It may naturally be supposed that at this time the vocal part of the worship was not performed in the most scientific manner, and that the minor

and major key were not much understood. Not many years ago Edward Lunn was a prominent figure in the singing pew as the leader. Eventually a small organ (if it might be so termed) was purchased, and erected just below the pulpit, where it seemed out of place. Here, also, the singers were located. By an extra effort, and demand upon the liberality of members and friends, a new organ gallery and vestries were erected in 1868, and have constituted one of the best improvements of late years. The choir now appears in its proper position, and the singing is heard to effect, with the accompaniment of a much better organ, yet not all that could be desired. Mr. A. Marshall is organist. Under the instructions of Mr. Kirkby, and the painstaking leadership of Mr. Charles Ward, an excellent choir has been organised and maintained, and the singing now has become an agreeable assistance to devotion. The choir has attained sufficient proficiency to enable them to execute satisfactorily difficult sacred pieces. Its special efforts have been marked with financial success, and cheerfully given towards chapel improvements and the intended new chapel.

INCOME from Annual Seat Rents during the subjoined years (merely selected at intervals) were, in 1822, £32 11s. 9d.; 1823, £31 16s. 3d.; 1825, £31 os. 2d.; 1831, £26 13s. 9d.; 1840, £30 13s. 3d.; 1850, £23 15s. 9d.; 1852-7, averaging £12 to £14; 1874, £39 19s. 9d.; 1876, £53 10s. 11½d.

#### Number of Sittings to Let in Chapel.

In 1831:	Galleries, 256; below and under, 72—total, 328.
Paid for,	154;      "      "      37—total, 191.
Unoccupied,	137.
In 1851:	Galleries, 278; below and under, 80—total, 358.
Paid for,	80;      "      "      20—total, 100.
	Unoccupied, 258.

In 1851 not a *third* of the chapel sittings was taken. This was the result of the so-called Reform Movement. It was a period of great animosity, and much tyranny was exercised by the dominant party at the time, causing the old members to separate and join other societies.

From 1852 to 1857 the receipts were so small that the stewards were unable to pay some of the interest—due for six years past. The income

from 1822 to 1867 (ordinary and even extraordinary), and the result of tea meetings, bazaars, &c., was mainly swallowed up by the payment of interest for borrowed money. At last the stewards became thoroughly wearied of this wretched state of affairs. The Rev. R. M. Willcox, and later the Rev. Thomas Kent, urged the importance of getting rid of the debt upon the chapel, amounting, in 1853, even by a former reduction, to £333 14s., which for so many years had proved a dead weight to all efforts of chapel improvement. In 1866 the centenary of the chapel was commemorated by a successful bazaar, when special efforts were made; and, in 1872, the final yearly instalment of a loan of £90 was paid, which had extended over a number of years, and so the old debt was virtually cleared off. It was accomplished thus wise, by a circuit effort, aided by the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, 27th May, 1867.

	£ s. d.
By Local Circuit Contributions	... ... 223 14 0
,, Proportion of Committee's Grant	... ... 20 0 0
" " " " " Loan	... ... 90 0 0
	<hr/>
	£333 14 0

In 1869 the treasurers of the Rothwell Chapel were out of pocket £30 15s. 4½d.; in 1870, £42 18s. 5½d.; but in 1874 the case was reversed, and £10 8s. 9d. was the balance in their hands and in favour of the chapel funds. In 1875 they had £39 3s. 8½d. to fall back upon. This better condition of things, shewing the dawn of a brighter day, was mainly the result of a larger income accruing from sittings, there being a great demand for them. In 1874 the cash received was £17 more than the former year. This may be also accounted for from the larger number of seats obtained by the repewning and formation of more, and the rise in the charge for sittings.

Through the liberality and superintendence of Mr. B. Clark all the available space at the bottom of the chapel (which has now become the most fashionable part, though formerly the gallery was most appreciated) has been economically brought into requisition. The number of paid sittings are now 240; free, 116;\* orchestra, 12—total, 368.

The original pulpit, the one in which the venerated father of Methodism is understood to have preached, was used, in the transformation of it, into a more modern platform or rostrum, in order to avoid the bother of temporarily erecting missionary and other platforms. It has also the advantage of giving more scope to the movements of the

\* Chiefly in the gallery.

preacher. There is at present a growing desire expressed, more especially by the younger members of the society, for a new chapel, having larger dimensions, to meet the present and prospective demand for sittings. Certainly the old existing building, in its outward appearance and the approach to it, is not attractive, or ornate enough for modern tastes and ideas. Serious steps have been taken to carry out this laudable object. It will be well, previous to doing so, to consider over past difficulties, from which the stewards have, as it were, only recently been extricated, and to avoid the incubus of debt, so detrimental to Methodist interests and progress in former years.

**REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS, &c.**—In 1828 Benjamin Lancaster was paid £5 3s. for repairing floor and pillars; in 1830, John Burton for chapel repairs, £3 6s.; in 1831, July 18th, paid John Morley, for converting the stable into a chapel house. In 1836, chapel improvements cost about £78, the expenses exceeding the income by £52 11s. 6d. The bulk of this was reduced by private subscriptions. In 1845, subscriptions, amounting to £28 8s., were collected on behalf of painting and repairing; and £5 os. 6d., by Miss Elizabeth Walker, for communion altar, &c. In 1859, cementing and moulding the chapel front cost £5 15s. In 1860, colouring and painting chapel and vestry, £15 6s. From 1822 to 1875, simply for minor repairs and interior painting and cleaning, extending over fifty-three years, upwards of £300 was spent, averaging about £6 yearly. This of course is independent of the extraordinary alterations and additions of vestries, organ gallery, and chapel-bottom repewing, at the total cost of about £500.

A bazaar, for the benefit of the New Building Fund, was opened by the committee of the Juvenile Sewing Meeting, on June 19th and 20th, 1877, and proved satisfactory to the promoters, realizing £58 10s.

It must be added that arrangements to purchase two cottages adjoining the chapel, with the intention of future improvement in the entrances, also the resident preacher's house has, with the munificent help of Mr. B. Clark, of Churchfield, been made. Thus Wesleyan Methodism in Rothwell materially seems to prosper.

### PRIMITIVE METHODISTS.\*

The account of this religious body, as regards Rothwell, will necessarily be brief in comparison with that of the Wesleyans. Its establishment is of so recent a date as to be remembered by several persons living at present. Again the documents in connection with the Rothwell society have not been available to the writer, and the information, though trustworthy, is of a somewhat fragmentary character, and has mainly been gathered from old resident office-bearers.†

The Primitive Methodists started here about 1814, receiving their first impulse from out-door preachers, who visited the place, and held forth near the Cross.‡ One of the first meeting houses was in Pump Fold, in Joseph Pickersgill's cottage, and occasionally they met in Betty Lister's house. Afterwards, in a more public way, and for a preaching place, they rented what was then Mr. Close's Lair (sub-

\* Hugh and James Bourne and William Clowes, Staffordshire men, and formerly local preachers in the Wesleyan Connexion, were the founders in England. Believing that a revival was needed, they organized, after the American fashion, a monster camp meeting, in 1807, on "Mow," a large open district in Staffordshire. This was done without consulting the travelling preachers, and was judged unseemly by the Wesleyan Conference, and accordingly disownced by this body. These men were expelled. They at once formed a society. The *first* class was formed in 1810. The ostensible object of the society was to go back to simple modes of faith and primitive manners, and so designated themselves *Primitive* Methodists.

† James Copley and Joseph Westmorland.

‡ A party from Leeds, forty or fifty years ago, used to visit the village, commonly known as "Jumping Ranters." Their meetings were held in a cottage in Jail Fold. People went out of curiosity to observe their antics. In their jumping fanaticism, the place being low, sometimes their heads came into unpleasant contact with the ceiling, much to the amusement of the young ones. They did not make many converts, and were not sympathised with by the true Primitive Methodists of the village.

sequently made into a maltkiln). Here two clever and godly women, named Ann Carr and Sarah Elam,\* along with others, conducted service, preached to the humble congregation, and propagated the new creed and more simple gospel methods. Thomas Nelson early joined the sect, and became a very earnest travelling preacher and an excellent theological expounder and polemic. Tabitha Farrah, a well-to-do farmer, whose niece, Mary Cheesborough, this gentleman had married, took a leading part amongst them. After leaving the lair in Hindle's Yard, worship was carried on in her house in Pottery Fold for a short time. About this time Mark Lucas (still living) and William Lucas were resident local preachers.

Afterwards they removed to a lair on the Marsh, which was fit up with pews. For a time it answered the purpose.† On leaving here they became tenants of a lair in Butcher Row, formerly used as a stable in connection with the Wesleyan minister's house, and belonging to Mr. James Rhodes, of Pontefract, paying ninepence per week rent. It was made into a very comfortable preaching house. In 1831 this community was broken up from some cause or other, and continued disorganized for several years. Some of the dispersed members joined the Wesleyan society. Thomas Nelson, before alluded to, gave up travelling and settled down at Rothwell. He lived in a house in the Town Street, and afterwards resided in Church Field as a private gentleman, having obtained property through marriage. He allowed his name to be placed upon the Wesleyan Local Preachers' Plan. He preached occasionally for the Primitives, but did not re-join them.

\* Eventually these devoted women and their followers left the Primitives, because the officials would not allow them to have a voice in the deliberations of the quarterly meetings. They originated a small society, termed "Female Revivalists," and built chapels, one in Regent Street, Leylands, Leeds, in 1825, and another in Brewery Field, Holbeck, in 1826.

† Afterwards occasionally used for theatrical performances by strolling players, and subsequently turned into a beershop by a Mr. Lake.

Once more the Primitive Methodist body revived, and they were assisted by a loan from Mr. Holland, of Bradford, to purchase land about mid-way leading out of the main street, and to build a good-sized chapel. With self-denying exertions—characteristic of this community—many of the miners freely giving their labour to excavate the foundations and to help to build, they erected in 1838 a place of worship called Ebenezer Chapel. The first children baptized in it were Solomon Blakeley and Elizabeth Westmorland, now Mrs. Rodgers, of America. Mr. James Barber had a child buried within its walls.

The mortgagee was very patient with the trustees, knowing their poor circumstances. He died suddenly, and his nephews, who succeeded to the property, came down upon them rather hastily for the payment, the trustees not being then in a position to furnish the money. The chapel was put up for sale, and bought in by Mr. John Kendrew at a considerable loss to the vendors. The money was virtually advanced by a person in the neighbourhood; who became anxious to have it refunded. Certain heavy law expenses were incurred, eventually through the assistance of the Provincial Building Society the amount was advanced and in time repaid.

This edifice served its noble purpose until 1874. The position of it was low and the way to it narrow and unpleasant, so the trustees and stewards looked out for a more suitable and convenient situation. They were enabled to secure a most eligible site on the Marsh, purchasing the land of John Holmes, Esq., of Methley, on which they have erected one of the most beautiful public buildings in the village. The old chapel was sold to Messrs. Seanor and Sons, and is now used in connection with their match manufactory.

The foundation stone of the new chapel was laid in the absence of Joseph Charlesworth, Esq., by Mr. William Hargreaves, on February 17th, 1874. On which occasion he was presented, as a token of respect, with a handsomely-bound

copy of the authorised and elaborate "History of the Primitive Methodist Connexion," by John Petty. On June 24, 1875, the opening services of the chapel were conducted by the Rev. James Ritchie, Wesleyan Minister; on account of domestic affliction the Primitive circuit minister could not attend. On July 12th, the opening was also celebrated with a public tea and evening meeting. The architect of the building was Mr. Thomas Howdill, of Leeds, and the builders Messrs. Chapman Brothers, Rothwell. The cost of the chapel, school, and chapel-keeper's house (the latter just erected) is upwards of £2200. By great perseverance and self-sacrifice, assisted by the liberal subscriptions of friends of the cause and systematic giving of the members, they have been enabled to raise about £1000, the remaining £1200 advanced from the Leeds Permanent Benefit Building Society has still to be paid. It will therefore be several years, unless an unusual fortune smiles, before the buildings become really the property of the Connexion. The land, however, is paid for, and the whole estate is spacious and valuable.

There have been three separate trusts. The *trustees* for the old chapel were Robert Kendrew, James Barber, Benjamin Ely, William Ward, James Copley, J. Booth, Robert Wood (all deceased), Joseph Westmorland, and Thomas Stephenson, still living. Those elected in 1874 were Jonathan Bramley, William Lunn, Isaac Taylor, Henry Maundrill, George Varley, Alfred Steel, Jesse Gibson, William Smith, Edwin Taylor, George Hainsworth, sen. (all living), William Ellis (deceased); since added, in 1876, Joseph Copley, James Adamson, Squire Bramley, James Batty, Jacob Ward, Joseph Wright, Jonathan Bramley, jun., James Hopton, Thomas Lunn, jun., George Norton. The Rothwell Society is in Leeds district, and in Hunslet or the fourth circuit, where the superintendent minister resides. The number of members of society is about 100.

The present local preachers residing in the parish are: J. Westmorland, James Batty, Jonathan Bramley, William

Denton, J. Stead, W. F. Milner. The society stewards are: Joseph Copley, Rothwell, and B. Nicholson, Carlton.

The average number of scholars attending school are:—girls, 50; boys, 70—total, 120.

#### THE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

The commencement of secular education for *adult* persons in Rothwell, as far as can be learned, is of very recent date.

It was in 1846 that a few respectable tradesmen and artisans of the village associated together for self improvement and instruction, and called themselves a "Mutual Improvement Society." They occupied, at first, the Parish Sunday School, in Church Field. Mr. H. Kirkby was unanimously chosen *president*; the *treasurer* was George Wilson; *secretary*, Robert Bussey Walker; and *librarian*, Thomas Nettleton. The *committee*, besides these, were James Kay, John Flockton, William Chapman, Thomas Armitage, Thomas Abson, John Brown. The *first* lecture was given by the president, the subject being "A Voyage Round the World." It was illustrated with diagrams, and was interesting and instructive. About forty people attended. Unpretentious, but useful lectures were given by Mr. Kirkby from time to time. Mr. David Green, of Leeds, bookseller, came over and addressed the members upon "Progress, generally and individually."

The situation of the school was considered rather out of the way, and did not on this account attract sufficiently the general public. After the first winter's session the society was in abeyance for a short time. A central position was next chosen and a re-union brought about. The meetings were then held in the Town Street, in the building at present occupied by Mr. George Blakeley. Here they continued for a time until the accommodation was found inade-

quate. A removal took place to the Old Charity School room. In the meantime an excellent library of 300 volumes was collected together and elementary lectures given. *Terms*: entrance sixpence, and sixpence per lunar month. The number of members in 1846 was 51; 1847, 48; 1848, 54; 1850, 31. The first anniversary was celebrated by a tea and public meeting, on the 4th January, 1847, in the Wesleyan School-room, on the Marsh. Some of the speakers were Mr. Smith, home missionary, Mr. Holmes, and other gentlemen. Very encouraging words were given to the promoters of the movement by the various speakers. After this Dr. Craven (previously to residing in the district) gave two lectures, in the Old School-room, on "Mesmerism." This did not suit certain parties in power, and an influence, detrimental to the society, was brought to bear. The letting of the room was refused; consequently, failing to obtain another place, the society broke up, after about four years' existence; the library was dispersed and the furniture sold.

#### MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

After an interval of about two years, on October 20th, 1853, a public meeting was convened, by placard, and held in the Wesleyan School-room, when the Rothwell Mechanics' Institute was really established. J. G. Turner, Esq., was in the chair, and this important resolution was proposed by Mr. Stephenson, seconded by Mr. Price, and supported by Mr. Pearsall, agent of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, and carried. It was to this effect: "That in the opinion of this meeting ignorance is the parent of vice, crime, immorality, and pauperism, and, therefore, it is the bounden duty of every well-wisher of the community to encourage education as the most efficient means of religious, moral, intellectual, and social elevation of his race." The following officers were then elected: President,

R. Craven, Esq., surgeon; Treasurer, J. G. Turner, Esq.; Secretary and Librarian, Mr. E. B. Long. Committee in addition: Messrs. Thomas Daniel, George Wilson, William Chapman, James Clarke, William Young, William Price, and Samuel Batty. About sixty members were enrolled, and the institute, being in the hands of influential gentlemen, received considerable financial support from the gentry of the neighbourhood. A good library was again collected, about 100 volumes the first year, and the institute became attached to the Yorkshire Union. Good lectures, then more appreciated than now, were often given. The excellent syllabus of the first session was as follows:—

- 1853, Dec. 21.—Introductory Lecture, by the Rev. John Bell.
- 1854, Jan. 11.—"On intellect, its power and due direction," Rev. R. M. Willcox.
- " Jan. 25.—"On the mental and physical condition of man in various parts of the world," illustrated by diagrams, Mr. Thomas Dobson.
- " Feb. 8.—"On the way to health," Dr. Craven.
- " Feb. 22.—"On Mahomet and the religion of the Turks," Mr. Wm. Heaton.
- " Mar. 8.—"On Nineveh," Mr. Holmes.
- " Mar. 22—"On language," Dr. Hook.

In the first annual report, read September 27th, 1854, the old complaint, that the working classes did not avail themselves of the advantages offered by the institute, was dwelt upon, and that the number of members was reduced to thirty-six. Total issue of books and periodicals, 1053. The evening classes, however, were well attended. Number of scholars 52; average attendance, 30. The Rev. John Bell, vicar, was elected president.

The first annual soiree was held in the National School-room, on Monday, October 9th, 1854. A tea was provided by a number of ladies, to which about 260 persons sat down. A public meeting followed, when speeches by various gentlemen, well-known friends of education, were delivered, urging

the claims of the institute upon the public. The proceedings were enlivened by the singing of the Parish Church Choir, conducted by Mr. Clarke.

Further lectures, &c., were arranged to be given, in the National School-room, on every alternate Thursday evening. The library and classes were held at the Wesleyan School-room. Lectures for the second session, 1854-5, announced were as follows:—

- 1854, Nov. 2.—“Reading from the *Lady of Lyons*,” Mr. Thompson Whalley.  
 „ Nov. 16.—“Comic writers of the present century,” Mr. E. Gaunt.  
 „ Nov. 30.—“Self improvement,” Mr. D. D. Calvert.  
 „ Dec. 14.—“Russia and the Russians,” — Foster, Esq.  
 1855, Jan. 4.—“The burial of the dead,” Rev. John Bell, M.A.  
 „ Jan. 18.—“Education, physically, mentally, and morally considered,” W. M. Wooler, Esq.  
 „ Feb. 1.—“Character of Franklin,” Mr. G. S. Phillips.  
 „ 15.—“Cornwall and the Cornish,” Rev. E. Chappel, B.A.  
 „ Mar. 1.—“Plurality of worlds as a scientific speculation,” Rev. E. Higginson.  
 „ Mar. 15.—“On Sun Pictures,” Mr. J. Dixon.  
 „ Mar. 29.—“On Nineveh,” Mr. John Holmes.

In 1857 the Wesleyan School was not allowed any longer for the use of the institute. Part of the building used by the late Reformers as a preaching room, commonly known as the maltkin, was rented of Mr. Thomas Stephenson by the committee. In 1858 inducements were held out to attract the people to become members, the subscriptions were reduced from 1s. 6d. to 1s. per quarter, and the people attending the night school were admitted to the privilege of the library at sixpence per quarter paid in advance. In 1860 the old rules were rescinded and new ones prepared and circulated amongst the members. About 1861 lectures were not so popular and attractive. In 1862, on lecture nights, it was decided that the rooms of the institute should be thrown open in order to get a larger audience, and to let the people see the advantages offered. In 1863 monthly lectures were discontinued, but occasional ones optional. In 1864 a pic-nic for the members to Temple-Newsam was arranged. In October of this year donations for the benefit of the institution were received from John Calverley, Esq., of £20; Lord Stourton, £2; Meynell Ingram, Esq., £2. The committee—especially some of the young officials—felt the desirability of obtaining a more suitable building with a convenient entrance, and internally adapted for institutional purposes. With this view a deposit was made February,

1865, in Beckett's Bank, as the nucleus of a building fund for a new institute. A site was preferred in the Town Street, but if this failed one on the Marsh was to be secured. In 1867 monthly lectures were resumed and penny readings commenced, and proved very successful, £7 5s. 1½d. being realised on four occasions; the proceeds were placed to the building fund. Adult classes were formed, the village was canvassed for new members, and a singing class commenced under the management of Messrs. Kirkby and Thomas Stainer. On October 16th, William Wheater, Esq., gave a lecture, entitled “A glimpse of old Rothwell;” the attendance was very good, and the novelty of the information was listened to with rapt attention and not easily forgotten. Negotiations were carried on with Mr. Calverley about the proposed building site. 1868, February 11th, John Calverley, Esq., promised to give the ground on the Marsh and a subscription of £100. This handsome offer really gave the impetus to start building at once. General subscriptions were now made, Messrs Charlesworth gave for the same object £20. About this time Mr. Calverley died, and lines of condolence, composed by Mr. C. Jewison, sen., were sent to Mrs. Calverley and family, and a copy of them entered into the minute book. The committee resolved to take advantage of a loan of 50 volumes from the itinerating library. New trustees were elected 11th June, 1868. In August Mr. John Farrer, of Oulton, steward to Edmund Calverley, Esq., gratuitously prepared the building plans, and in September part of the building was commenced. A modification was made in the plans and it was agreed to erect a permanent building. 1869, January 25th, the foundation stone of the New Mechanics' Institute on the Marsh was laid, by J. G. Turner, Esq., and the devotional services conducted by the Rev. Thomas Pearson, Wesleyan Minister; E. Calverley, Esq., and the Rev. John Bell, vicar, having declined these respective honours. Speeches on the occasion were made by John Holmes, Esq., of Methley, Mr. Legg, of Leeds, and the Rev. Thomas Pearson, of Wakefield, and a procession headed by a band of music walked through the village. Documents, newspapers, portraits, &c., were put into a bottle and deposited under the stone; £5 was subscribed on this occasion towards the building fund. The work was contracted for by H. Stainer and Son, builders, Mr. Caleb Copley, joiner, J. Wright, plumber, &c. 1869, August 18th: the institute was formally opened by a tea and *soiree*, of which 300 people partook, and 400 attended the *soiree* in the evening; Mr. Ald. Barran occupied the chair. He promised 10 per cent. on £200 if the debt then owing (£250) was cleared off in two years. William Mason, Esq., of Oulton, promised the same amount on the same condition. Good concerts are now given for the benefit of the building fund, and prove financially successful. 1869-70 entertainments were very numerous, providing funds for the library, seats for the hall, and £50 towards the debt. 1870, October 12th, the Rev. N.

Greenwell gave a lecture on "Sedan," illustrated with war relics and trophies taken from the battle-field. The subject collected a good audience, and the money received for admission, larger than at any other lecture, was kindly handed over by the rev. lecturer for the benefit of the institute. *November 16th*: Grand tea and *soiree*; present, W. S. Stanhope, Esq., of Cannon Hall; Mr. Wheelhouse, M.P., Mr. E. Calverley, the Rev. W. Smythe, newly appointed vicar of Rothwell, and other influential gentlemen. The president was in the chair: he sketched the modern progress of the institute; the secretary went further back into the history of its struggles and vicissitudes, and gave statistics of its position then. The principal speakers were Mr. Wheelhouse and Mr. Stanhope.—*See the Leeds papers, November 17, 1870.*

*1871, April 3rd*: Through the influence of the President (Wm. Mason, Esq.) a very superior concert was given by several gentlemen of the Leeds Private Vocal Society, but was poorly attended. *March 4th*: A party of strolling players engaged the large room of the institute and put out bills, headed "Three hours glorious fun," making many professions of ability. A crowded audience, of working people chiefly, assembled; they soon found the inability of the so-called performers to carry out the programme, and became suspicious and impatient, the players were hissed off the stage, and several of them got away quietly, others were followed and roughly handled by some of the more exasperated of the company, and the money for admission demanded—much uproar followed. This affair did temporary damage to the future entertainments of the institute, so that the committee felt the importance of cautioning the public against associating them with anything except signed properly by the secretary.

*July, 1871*: On the representation of the affairs of the institute by the treasurer of the building fund, J. G. Turner, Esq., to Lord Stourton, he kindly forwarded a donation of £29, which virtually freed the institute of debt. The other conditionally-promised donations soon followed. A letter of thanks for the handsome and timely donation was sent by the secretary to his lordship. *September 12th*: *Soiree* to celebrate the extinction of the debt, Alderman Barran, mayor of Leeds, in the chair. On the platform were Councillor Mason, John Holmes, Esq., Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. J. Rider, and other speakers. There were also present the Rev. J. R. Crawford (curate), Dr. Nowell, Messrs. James Clarke, William Hargreaves, and Thomas Hargreaves. The secretary (Mr. John Batty), read the report, which concluded with an appeal to the working classes "to come forward and join the institute, and feel that it was their own, and intended to benefit them. It was hoped, also, that they would show a desire to keep it in a flourishing condition and out of debt, so that it might be a praise and power in the land, not only in regard to financial prosperity, but for good in instructing and educating the people."

The following analysis of the subscriptions was also presented:—

	£ s. d.
From Nobility and gentry .. .. ..	405 5 0
„ Trades-people .. .. ..	71 15 8
„ Artisans and miners .. .. ..	60 15 3
„ Ladies .. .. ..	15 8 6
„ Collecting cards .. .. ..	38 18 8
„ Miscellaneous sources .. .. ..	13 8 0½
„ Concerts .. .. ..	46 2 1½
„ Readings .. .. ..	39 19 0
„ Entertainments, &c. .. .. ..	25 19 5½
„ Soirees .. .. ..	31 18 11
„ Lectures .. .. ..	6 8 0
„ Lettings .. .. ..	30 0 0
	<hr/>
	778 0 1½
Cost of building, &c. .. .. ..	(750 0 0
	<hr/>
	28 0 1½
Incidental expenses .. .. ..	21 13 10½
	<hr/>
Balance in hand .. .. ..	£6 6 3

*October 23rd, 1871*: A horizontal grand pianoforte was selected and purchased by Mr. James Clarke, and the terms of payment agreed to by the committee. In December a new catalogue was made of the books, and the library space enlarged. A three months' exclusive circulation of the newest books held out as an inducement to honorary subscribers. A gift of books from Alderman Barran, mayor of Leeds, consisting of eighteen volumes. The evening classes were well attended, under the superintendence of the Rev. J. R. Crawford. A gala, held July 16th, 1872, resulted in a small loss. *August 26th, 1872*: Presentation of a testimonial to the Rev. J. R. Crawford, on leaving Rothwell, by the committee, as a mark of esteem, and for the kind and active interest he had shown in the welfare of the institute. It consisted of thirteen volumes, chiefly of theology by modern divines, and an inkstand. A drawing class, under Mr. Umpleby, was started in the summer. The evening classes for general instruction were attended by 122 scholars. The vicar began to teach a class of young men; but all the classes fell through except the one connected with the debating society, formed 4th September, 1873.\* *June, 1874*: The

\* This class consisted of about thirty members, chiefly young men, with an average attendance of fifteen to twenty. Its object was to obtain mutual instruction, and to cultivate the art of public speaking and a ready and intelligible way of expressing opinion on the subject in question. Under the

back of the institute fenced by a brick wall. The drawing class was discontinued, a remunerative number of pupils not attending. A proposal to advance the charge of subscriptions for membership did not meet with favour. Mr. Calverley's eldest son having attained his majority, on *July 4th*, 1876, the committee, long wishing to show their gratitude to the Calverley family, thought this a fitting opportunity. They forwarded an illuminated address, on card-board, surmounted with a handsome border of colours, at the top and side of which were the monograms of Mr. Calverley and the Rothwell Mechanics' Institute, the wording of the address was as follows:—

*To Edmund Calverley, Esq., of Oulton Hall.*

Sir,—We, the undersigned, being the Committee of the Rothwell Mechanics' Institute, beg to offer, in the name of all the members, our most hearty congratulations to Mrs. Calverley and yourself upon the auspicious event of your son attaining his majority.

It is our most earnest wish that health and happiness may ever attend him.

The recollection of your munificence, to which is owing in a great measure the existence of this Institute, will never be effaced from our memory. We ask you, therefore, kindly to accept the expression of our best wishes upon this happy occasion, accompanied, also, with the desire that every blessing may rest upon your house.

We are, sir, yours respectfully,

WILLIAM MASON, *President.*

A. J. IRVIN,

JAMES RAWLING,      }  
GEORGE ARMITAGE,      } *Vice-Presidents.*

F. H. BRAITHWAITE, *Treasurer.*

ENOS TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

chairmanship of Mr. Kirkby the class succeeded, and much interest was shewn in the debates. These were of a varied character, being historical, metaphysical, or on questions of social economy. Several young men exhibited an unexpected amount of critical acumen and oratorical power of expression. Many enjoyable evenings were spent in connection with this praiseworthy society. At present it is in abeyance, but it is thought that it will be revived once more.

*December, 1876:* A boys' class was favourably commenced under Mr. Ledgerd, of the Carlton Board School; but in January, 1877, the fever broke out at Carlton, and Mr. Ledgerd was obliged to withdraw for a short time. In the meantime the numbers dwindled down, and a good class could not be revived again during the session. *In March* the drawing, or art class, was resumed on a better footing, and became connected with South Kensington Museum, and, under the superintendence of Mr. Henry Thompson, head master of the Rothwell National Schools, with a fair prospect of interest and success. *April 23rd:* An attempt to beautify and make more attractive the walls of the reading room by the purchase of framed engravings.

*1877, July 9th*, the annual meeting took place, the president in the chair. After the formal business was gone through, a presentation of a silver watch and gold chain, also spectacles in case, were given to Mr. Francis Henry Braithwaite for long and faithful services rendered to the institute.

As the institute depends for support upon people of all shades of opinion, possessing a variety of interests, the committee have determined not to encourage anything calculated to hurt the feelings or militate against the good of its members and subscribers. They believe that the institute should take neutral ground in regard to politics and religion, and that it should be a place where all could meet, as it were, on one common platform.

It is to be regretted that the means of education offered from time to time are not more freely taken advantage of by those who need them most. In this direction a great work has to be accomplished in the future. The reading-room is made increasingly attractive and is correspondingly frequented, and the building itself is one of the most useful in the village for public and other meetings, independent of institutional uses, and really answers the purpose of a town hall. The income from letting far surpasses that received from any other ordinary source, and, besides keeping the institute out of debt, enables the committee to make useful and necessary improvements.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE.

President.	Vice-Presidents.	Treasurers.	Secretaries	Librarians.
1853 Robert Craven, M.D. 1854 Rev. J. Bell, M.A.	... Do.	Mr. J. G. Turner. Do.	E. B. Long. Long and Price. Wm. Price.	E. B. Long. Long and Price. Wm. Price.
1855 Do.	... Mr. R. Craven.	Mr. G. Armitage. Do.	Thos. Kendrew.	Thos. Kendrew.
1856 Do.	... Mr. Jno. Holmes.	Mr. Benj. Clark.	Geo. Armitage.	Geo. Armitage.
1857 Do.	Mr. Jas. Nowell.	Mr. Jas. Rawling.	{ T. Hargreaves and G. Armitage.	{ T. Hargreaves and G. Armitage.
1858 Do.	Do.	Geo. Rawling. Do.	Thomas Armitage. Wm. Stead.	Thomas Armitage. Wm. Stead.
1859 Do.	Mr. C. Jewison, sen.	Geo. Armitage. Wm. Price.	Thos. Stainer.	Thos. Stainer.
1860 Do.	Mr. Jas. Clarke.	Do.	Thos. Clark.	Thos. Clark.
1861 Chris. Jewison, sen.	Mr. J. G. Turner.	Thos. Hargreaves. { Mr. W. Price. Mr. Constantine }	James Rawling.	James Rawling.
1862 Do.	Do.	Do.	William Gregg. Wm. Albbishaw.	William Gregg. Wm. Albbishaw.
1863 Do.	Do.	J. Rider. Thos. Hargreaves. J. R. Seanon. Do.	Sam'l Hargreaves. Do.	Sam'l Hargreaves. Do.
1864 Do.	Do.	Do.	{ J. R. Seanor. R. Nicholson. J. R. Seanor.	{ S. Hargreaves and E. Taylor. Enos Taylor.
1865 Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
1866 Do.	Do.	Do.	John Batty.	John Batty.
1867 Do,	Mr. Jas. Clarke.	{ Mr. Jas. Clarke. Mr. Wm. Price. Mr. W. Hargreaves.	Mr. T. Hargreaves. Mr. Braithwaite.	Do.
1868 Jno. G. Turner, Esq.	{ Mr. Jas. Clarke. Mr. A. J. Blackburn. Rev. J. R. Crawford. M. J. G. Turner.	{ Mr. W. Hargreaves. Mr. A. J. Blackburn. Rev. J. R. Crawford. M. J. G. Turner.	Mr. T. Hargreaves. Mr. Braithwaite.	Do.
1869 Wm. Mason, Esq.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
1870 Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
1871 Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
1872 Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Walter Idle.
1873 Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.

1874	Mr. Jas. Clarke.	Enos Taylor.	{ W. Idle. A. Batty.
	Mr. Jas. Rawling.		
1875	Mr. Samuel Seanor.	Do.	{ C. and W. Brears.
	Rev. A. J. Irvin.		
1876	Mr. James Rawling.	Do.	{ E. Taylor and ... Walter Batty ...
	Mr. Geo. Armitage.		
1877	Rev. A. J. Irvin.	Do.	{ C. Brears. Benjamin Taylor.
	Mr. Saml. Seanor.		
	Do. both	Do. both	Do.

TRUSTEES.—Christopher Jewison, Esq., John Brown, Esq., J. G. Turner, Esq.; James Clarke, Esq.; Messrs. J. R. Seano, William Hargreaves, Thomas Hargreaves; John Farmer, Esq.; William Smith, Esq.; Thomas William Jewison, Esq.; Messrs. F. H. Braithwaite, James Hargreaves, George Armitage, Thomas Stainer, William Price.

YEAR.	MEMBERS.		LIBRARY.			INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.				
	Honorary.	Ordinary.	Total.	Volumes.	Added.	Issues.	From Members.	Other Sources.	Total.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1870	5	102	107	750	75	2500	27	2	84	4	1	84	4
1871	5	116	121	780	—	2550	28	13	57	1	4	45	17
1872	25	91	116	6784	50	2607	37	10	70	4	6	110	3
1874*	24	147	171	865	101	2685	54	12	74	3	8	150	15
1875	27	106	133	905	40	2325	36	11	69	3	0	105	15
1876†	31	105	136	922	40	2892	72	3	122	13	8	194	16
1877	33	115	148	940	60	3295	45	6	48	11	0	93	17

\* The date of the annual meeting changed, the year being from September, 1872, to January, 1874 (fifteen months).  
 + The date of the annual meeting again altered, the year being from January, 1875, to July, 1876 (eighteen months).  
 The library revised, and a large number of old books cast out.

All these prominent facts, names, and figures, have been taken from the minute books of the institute and may be termed <sup>as</sup> *curious*.

## THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Was commenced in January, 1877, by the Rev. G. Heberden, vicar, supported by the gentry of the neighbourhood connected with the Established Church of England. According to the published programme, its objects were to "provide comfortable rooms for those who would spend a quiet hour or two of an evening away from their homes." "Three rooms being provided for the members: one for reading, one for social intercourse, and a third for playing games." Newspapers, periodicals, and a small library are at the disposal of its members. Good coffee or tea, and bread and butter at a cheap rate, are also furnished. The charge for membership is six shillings per annum.

It may be affirmed that the good intentions of the promoters have not been much encouraged hitherto.

## THE SANITARY CONDITION OF ROTHWELL.

Rothwell appears to be upon the whole a healthy place. This may be gathered from the annual report, ending December, 1876, prepared by Dr. Heaps, Medical Officer of Health for the Rothwell District, from which the subjoined valuable and important items have been extracted.

"The statistics are based upon 5000, being the estimated population of the township at the time."

"Registered during the year were 190 *births* (91 males and 99 females), being at the rate of 38 per 1000. The *deaths*, 50 males and 41 females, total 91, equal to a death rate of 18.2 per 1000. This compares very favourably with the death rate of the principal urban population of England and Wales, which was 22.7 per 1000. The Rothwell death rate being below the average of rural districts, which was 18.57."

"The unusually mild weather in October, November, and December, influenced very favourably the death-rate, especially among persons aged upwards of sixty years, five only having died."

"The cases of *death* from zymotic or preventable diseases were nine: 1 *whooping cough*, 6 *diarrhoea*, 1 *fever (intermittent)*, 1 *fever (scarlet)*.\* Five cases of typhoid fever, six of measles, and one of smallpox occurred in the district, but none of them proved fatal. The typhoid cases were directly traceable to bad drainage. The measles were imported by a family who came from a distance to reside at Thwaite gate. Successful means were adopted to prevent extension."

"Infant mortality was high, amounting to considerably more than a fourth of the total deaths: 28 under the age of one year, a great proportion arising from *debility* induced by *improper feeding*, milk, so necessary to infant life and growth, being sparingly given. Long ages: 10 persons died upwards of eighty, 2 upwards of ninety. Twenty-seven deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, viz.: 12 from *bronchitis*, 5 from *pneumonia*, and 7 from *phthisis*, being upwards of one-fourth of the whole number of deaths for the year. Bronchial or lung affections are endemic, and often prevalent here, arising partly from the geographical position of the village, which lies low, and is most exposed to the east wind, but principally from want of proper drainage. When a thorough system of drainage is established the number of deaths from these diseases will be considerably reduced."

The sanitary work done by personal visitation, or by orders given through the medical officer, was as follows:—

"Houses visited, 60; houses disinfected, 2; beds disinfected, 2; offensive sump removed, 1; over-crowded houses abated, 2; notices and letters issued, 37; notices complied with, 29; notices not complied with, 5; nuisances reported, 37; nuisances abated, 42; summonses taken out and orders granted in each case, 3; houses ordered to be closed, being deemed unfit for human habitation, 7; middens and ashpits emptied at the expense of the board, 649; by private individuals, 72—total, 721."†

Formerly ashpits were disgracefully kept and were an abominable nuisance, it was so difficult to get them emptied. An improvement in this respect is shown of late in a more regular and systematic cleansing of them.

\* In 1873 the prevalence of fever in our midst, causing a fearful mortality amongst young children, darkened the latter part of the year, and cast a gloom in our somewhat busy village. The temporary closing of the public schools, in November, was a precaution adopted on the recommendation of our medical officer, in order to hinder the spread of the disease. The wisdom of the step is apparent in the effectual diminution of cases.—*Review of 1873 (Rothwell Times)*.

† See Sanitary Report for 1873.

The appended statistics are taken from the Church Registers and refer to the *whole* parish. The dates occur chiefly before the General Census was taken, the figures may therefore be interesting to the curious, and serve as a basis for those ingeniously inclined upon which to calculate the probable number of inhabitants at the period.

YEAR.	MARRIAGES.	BAPTISMS.	BURIALS.
1734	25	78	38
1737	12	94	47
1738	12	73	57
1740	14	71	46
1742	22	71	72
1745	17	64	53
1747	22	76	51
1752	18	86	72
1756	34	91	49
1759	31	94	113
1760	24	106	62
1761	23	97	73
1763	26	113	91
1765	27	97	127
1769	33	111	68
1773	26	109	88
1774	23	100	62*
1785	No Account.	No Account.	107
1813	Do.	Do.	85
1814	Do.	Do.	107
1815	Do.	Do.	115
1816	Do.	Do.	120
1817	Do.	Do.	112
1818	Do.	Do.	125
1819	Do.	Do.	137
1820	Do.	Do.	130

\* From March 25th, 1774, to March 25th 1775.

Mr. Thomas Stephenson, the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the District of Rothwell, which includes Rothwell, Rothwell Haigh, Royds Green, Ingram Place (Waterloo), Stourton Cottages, Carr Lane, and Middleton, has kindly furnished the subjoined particulars. The total number of deaths from 17th November, 1873, to 14th September, 1877, inclusive (being three years and about ten months), is 500.

## OF

841.

MALES.	TOTAL.
485	2988
565	1077
36	72
919	1789
747	1536
752	7462

# POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF ROTHWELL.

YEAR.	1801.*			1811.			1821.			1831.			1841.			1851. <sup>b</sup>			1861.			1871.		
	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Rothwell with Rothwell Haigh and Royds Green <sup>a</sup> .....	829	860	1689	829	882	1711	1059	1096	2155	1336	1302	2638	1503	1485	2988	1554	1498	3052	1606	1614	3220	1878	1855	3733
Middleton.....	417	414	831	451	455	906	539	557	1096	461	515	976	512	565	1077	484	493	977	457	445	902	559	499	1058
Thorp .....	24	31	55	34	32	66	44	36	80	34	28	62	36	36	72	43	40	83	44	27	71	37	32	69
Oulton-cum-Woodlesford ...	615	608	1223	648	619	1267	770	756	1526	702	794 <sup>c</sup>	1496	870	919	1789	818	953	1771	877	974	1851	1019	1023	2042
Carlton-cum-Lofthouse <sup>d</sup> ...	492	486	978	539	515	1054	690	706	1396	767	690	1463	789	747	1536	847	811	1658	1030	998	2028	1346	1234	2580
Total in the Parish ...	2377	2399	4776	2501	2503	5004	3102	3151	6253	3300	3335	6635	3710	3752	7462	3746	3795	7541	4014	4058	8072	4839	4643	9482

\* The first Census of England and Scotland was taken in 1801; Ireland in 1821.

<sup>c</sup> It will be observed that in the Woodlesford and Oulton Township, from 1831, the females considerably preponderate over the males in numbers.

<sup>d</sup> Carlton and Lofthouse district shows a large increase in 1821 and 1861 over the previous ten years; and exhibits the largest total increase during the seventy years, having nearly trebled itself; Rothwell in the same period more than doubled. Robin Hood is included, a most thriving and progressive district, on account of the development of the stone and coal trade.

## ROTHWELL TOWNSHIP, 1801.

Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
Occupied by Families	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Uninhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	829
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	860
Employed chiefly in agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Trades, manufactures, handicrafts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Persons not comprised—employed in various and miscellaneous occupations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1416
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1689

## HOUSES IN THE PARISH OF ROTHWELL.

YEAR.	1841.			1851			1861.			1871.			NOTE.—It is expected that the Census of 1881 will show a large increase in the population of Rothwell Township. During the unprecedented activity of the Coal Trade, in 1872-4, when wages were high, many strangers settled down in Rothwell, and the demand for houses was pressing; since then building has gone on at an unusual rate, especially in Rothwell, Carlton Lane, Woodlesford, and Stourton Estate, Thwaite Gate.* The number of houses, &c., erected will be found greater than at any former period; of late, however, there has been a falling off, and there are now (September, 1877) many cottages unoccupied in the parish. Since the Local Board was formed, in 1873, plans have been passed for the erection of 230 houses in Rothwell district.		
	INHABITED.	UNINHABITED.	BUILDING.	INHABITED.	UNINHABITED.	BUILDING.									
Rothwell Township .....	602	26	8	614	8	1	665	34	2	775	42	10			
Middleton .....	199	4	—	204	7	—	207	1	—	216	13	—			
Thorp .....	16	—	—	14	1	—	13	—	—	13	3	—			
Oulton-cum-Woodlesford ...	362	13	9	390	5	1	435	10	3	454	9	7			
Carlton-cum-Lofthouse .....	325	7	2	346	0	—	420	16	—	576	37	1			
Total in the Parish....	1504	50	19	1568	1	2	1740	61	5	2034	104	18			

All the above figures are from official sources and may be relied upon.

\* About six years ago there was on the Stourton Estate, Thwaite Gate, only three houses, now there are about two hundred and forty. An estimate has just been made of it, the gross value is £2459 9s.; rateable value, £2127 12s.

The annual rate being as follows for the respective years:—

1873-74	...	...	...	...	...	160
1874-75	...	...	...	...	...	153
1875-76	...	...	...	...	...	103
1876 to 17th September, 1877	...	...	...	...	...	84
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	500	

About *ninety-four* of the above total of deaths are from the Township of Middleton.

#### ROTHWELL IMPROVEMENTS.

Rothwell may be said to be in a transition state. Certain steps taken for its improvement, and the convenience of its inhabitants generally, are only as yet in their infancy, and an opinion upon the advantages likely to accrue from them would at this stage be premature. Our business will be to give a few facts in connection with the action already taken, and to furnish an outline of the work foreshadowed.

The Local Government Act was adopted in 1872. On April 2nd, 1873, the election of the Rothwell Local Board took place. Its objects were to inquire into the sanitary condition of the township, to institute measures for its amelioration, and to carry out public works of importance.

The improvement of the roads was primarily attended to. Bell Hill Road was paved at a great cost. It is the most frequented highway in the parish, the number of coal-carts and other vehicles travelling upon it is immense, especially since the doing away of tolls at Pepper Lane Bar, Hunslet. The main street of Rothwell village is also kept in better condition. The lighting of the streets, with gas lamps placed at intervals, is a real benefit, causing travelling after dark to be much pleasanter and safer. The sanitary condition of the village throughout, as relates to the more

efficient cleansing of ash-pits, &c., is decidedly better. Building regulations have been enforced, and proper limits and safer erections insisted upon; also the doing away with unfit dwellings.

Rothwell is moderately supplied with drinking water from its own natural resources, having several constant springs, yet even the best (Sterroid Well), upon analysis, is pronounced to be inferior in quality. The supply, too, is judged to be uncertain in the future. Various local schemes have been suggested, but these are not entertained by the Local Government Board, as it is affirmed that the supply may some day be cut off or diverted on account of the sinking of pits in the neighbourhood. Arrangements for a permanent water scheme have been completed with the Leeds Corporation, who undertake to furnish from their extensive works a supply, equivalent to ten gallons per day for each man, woman, and child, at ninepence per thousand gallons. This is to be conveyed in *pipes*, so that all may be amply furnished with this most necessary element of human sustenance.

The reservoir is to be placed near the Victoria Pit, on Rothwell Haigh. Already the township has been surveyed, by Mr. Crutchley and Mr. Fox. Plans have also been made with a view to a complete system of drainage. That for Stourton Lodge Estate being now approved. Several schemes are under the grave consideration of our local parliament, whose members are wishful to adopt the most thorough and effectual one. The water scheme is estimated to cost about £5000, and the sewage £9000; the repayment of capital and interest to be by instalments extending over fifty years, so as to make the burden as light as possible for the present and future ratepayers. All these improvements point to an increase in the amount of the rates, and, consequently, the cost of living. It is hoped, however, that commensurate advantages will be reaped in the improved health of the district and the comfort and general convenience of its inhabitants.

Minor works of a useful nature have to be performed, such as the naming of the streets and yards for postal despatch; and we might point to the institution of public baths\* and a common playground, conveniently situated, which latter would take away the unseemly noise and disturbance caused by children playing in our streets, a practice also dangerous on account of passing vehicles.

Rothwell is evidently growing more town-like in some of its aspects and regulations.

#### SCHOOL BOARDS.

An order was received from the Educational Department of the Government, dated October 19th, 1874, for the compulsory election of a School Board for the United District of Rothwell and Thorpe Stapleton. The first election took place on November 13th, 1874. The election of Lofthouse with Carlton United District School Board was on December 31st, 1874. The objects of this institution is to see that the "Elementary Education Acts" are fully carried out, and to obtain statistics of the number of children attending schools and thereby receiving education; also to supply the necessary and healthful accommodation for a specified number of scholars and to appoint suitable and qualified teachers. These preliminaries, as relates to the outside of Rothwell, were at once attended to, and resulted in the necessity for building in some places entirely new schools, and in others of enlarging those already in existence. The Lofthouse Church School had a corresponding wing added to it. The Robin Hood and Carlton New Board Schools, beautiful and spacious, have been opened about a year, and are now in good working order. These new erections have been built at

\* About ninety-five years ago there was a bathing place down by Spring Head. (Old John Smith.)

considerable expense, and, by some, deemed with unnecessary cost and ornamentation. A temporary school was opened at Stourton, Thwaite Gate, on April 5th, 1875. The foundation of the present building was laid November 6th, 1875; it was opened October 16th, 1876; the cost being £4845, and the schools are well attended. The Waterloo and Thorpe-Stapleton School was opened on August 27th, 1877, and is leased, from the Hon. Mrs. Meynell Ingram, for thirty years, the original building being enlarged with several neat rooms.

Attention has of late been directed to the school accommodation of Rothwell proper. A census of children has just been completed by Mr. A. Marshall, clerk to the Board, and the result is as follows. It is ascertained that in the township there are 1200 children, whose ages range from three years to thirteen years, and are, therefore, eligible for education, thus:—

Rothwell National School, including private schools, provides for ...	...	...	...	...	..	500
Thwaite Gate Board School accommodates	...	...	...	...	..	288
Waterloo Board School accommodates	...	...	...	...	..	90

leaving 342 children unprovided for. Thus it appears that either the present schools will have to be enlarged or another Board School erected.

Other proofs of progress may be briefly enumerated.

The first humble *printing press* was introduced into Rothwell in December, 1867, by Mr. A. Marshall. It supplied a *desideratum*, and it was well employed; afterwards it was replaced by an improved machine. Since then other printing presses have followed: one by Mr. Ineson, and a third recently (by Mr. Thomas Nettleton, of the Working Men's Club. By them a certain class of useful printing is creditably done, and all find employment. On November 1st, 1873, a weekly newspaper was started by Mr. Marshall, named the *Rothwell Times*. It commenced simultaneously with the formation of the Local Board, and with the object of reporting its transactions. This it has fairly done. Its *début* was attended with a good omen of success, 600 copies being sold in *two hours*! but it

cannot be said to have carried out other parts of its programme or to represent completely the interests of all sections of the community.

The *Post Office*, under the superintendence of Mr. Marshall, has done considerably more business of late, and is freely made use of. In November, 1874, there was a weekly delivery of 795 letters, &c. A few days ago the weekly number was 1025. In passing it might be remarked that a further extension of its advantages might be reasonably looked for in the future; at present, unfortunately, a large per centage of the artisan class are unable to sign their names, as the marriage certificates and certain receipts testify. A few months since a *Money Order* Office was established in connection with the above, tardily granted after many and repeated applications. It is taken advantage of beyond expectation. Arrangements are just made to obtain the telegraph system (through the liberality of Joseph Charlesworth, Esq., and others, the required guarantee will be forthcoming). And thus business facilities have increased. Sept. 24, 1877.

*Benefit Societies* are an excellent feature. An old-established society was commenced at Woodlesford, but afterwards settled down at Oulton. Some of its funds were early invested in cottage property, at Rothwell, on the Marsh. *The Old Society Houses*, built above fifty years ago, consist of three brick dwellings and four stone ones, with small garden plots attached, claims from the Marsh Common Enclosure. *Rothwell Friendly Alliance Society* was established in 1857, it numbers fifty members, and on January 1st, 1877, was worth £616. The miners have various *sick clubs* and *dead briefs*, and no class of workers need them more. A branch of the *Leeds Permanent Benefit Building Society* was established here in January, 1871, and now numbers about 150 members, having about 200 shares in it. Through its assistance many of the people have obtained houses of their own. It acts also as a savings bank, and its influence in inculcating habits of thrift cannot be overrated. The *Yorkshire Penny Bank*, held at the National Schools, is highly beneficial in affording opportunities for the children and others to make pence into pounds. An agency of the *Prudential Assurance Society* is established, and through its benefits many people are assisted in time of great need.

A lodge of the *Independent Order of Good Templars*\* was formed in Rothwell, December 18th, 1872, when the following persons gave in their names and formed the charter members of the lodge:—Rev. H. G. Hird,

\* "The above order was first originated in America and introduced into England, in 1869, by Joseph Malins, Esq., who became a member whilst in America, and returned a few months after, and planted the first lodge in Birmingham. There are now thousands of lodges in England alone. The objects of the order are to save the fallen and to prevent others from falling, and the prohibition of the liquor traffic."

C. Ineson, Mrs. Ineson, William Lunn, E. Hampson, A. Steel, A. Wainwright, T. W. Taylor, Elijah Taylor, James Hopton, and William Ely. The meetings are held in the Mechanics' Institute. The following officers were elected for the May quarter: Lucy Ann Ineson, W.C.T., Emanuel Hampson, W.V.T., John Butterick, W.C., Howarth Chapman, W.S., William Taylor, W.A.S., Walter Shearman, R.H.S., Elijah Blackburn, L.H.S., Thomas William Taylor, W.F.S., Edwin Taylor, W.T., Enoch Ward, W.M., William Wright, W.D.M., Joseph Cooling, W.I.G., Charles Ineson, W.O.G., George W. Nettleton, P.W.C.T., John Berry, D.G.W.C.T.

The number of members returned for the May quarter of 1877 to the Grand Lodge of Yorkshire was 27. The late Richard Seanor, Esq., was a very active member of this lodge, and, whilst living, filled the office of ward chaplain for several quarters, and was much respected by the members, and nearly the whole of them attended his funeral, wearing black crape rosettes on their regalia.

The mode of entering the lodge is by getting some member to propose them for membership, when, if elected by ballot, they are admitted by the payment of 1s. 6d. for initiation, which frees them for the quarter; males 1s. per quarter over 18 years of age, and females 6d., for contributions.

We have endeavoured to sketch rapidly some of the pleasing features of the social picture. The careful reader will have noticed in our statements unmistakable proofs of progress, slow but sure: *socially*, in improved manners and order in our streets; *educationally*, in better means, appliances, and tuition; *sanitarily*, in improved roads, buildings, illumination, &c.; *numerically*, in a larger population and a greater number of houses. In *religious* matters, more accommodation is required and handsomer places of worship erected.

It appears to us that the great want of Rothwell is a larger scope and opening out for commercial and manufacturing enterprise and a direct railway communication. Our chief staple trade being the coal business is too irregular, and far too many of our male workers have solely to depend upon it.

We have attempted to show the purpose of true history, namely, to report *progress*, and to compare at intervals

periods of social life for future guidance. What Rothwell will be in the future we leave to other historians to pourtray. In the meantime, happy are the English people who, though possessed of the rich heritage of a glorious past, have no reason to wish to recall it, but rather, from the stand-point of present privileges and opportunities, anticipate still greater social advancements and nobler mental achievements.

## APPENDIX.

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Through the kindness of his esteemed friend, Mr. Charles Forrest, of Lofthouse, the writer is enabled to present the curious reader with a verbatim copy of the rare "Tract" issued by Sir John Hotham, the Parliamentary General, previously to the commencement of the great Civil War alluded to on Page 56, and probably printed at York.\* With a sketch of the signatories and the brief history of the circumstances which called forth the "remonstrance" already given, these will constitute almost a complete account of this peculiarly interesting affair.

\* "About the middle of the reign of King Charles the First, that mighty engine of liberty, the printing press," says Mr. Davies, "was again introduced into the northern counties of England; and, strange to say, it was planted there by the hands of the arbitrary monarch himself. In his progress to Scotland in the year 1639, Robert Barker, the King's printer, was in the royal suite, and took with him his press and types. Before the King advanced farther north, he spent nearly a month at York, and from thence he issued his famous proclamation 'for the suppression of various monopolies.' Although no evidence of the fact has hitherto appeared, it is highly probable that the royal press was employed at York in publishing to the world this proof of the King's 'care and providence for the public good of the people.' The King proceeded from York to Newcastle, and a few tracts are yet extant which show that the royal press was at work there for a short time."

In the spring of 1642, Charles and his Court were established in York; and near the royal residence the King had his press set up, and it was in constant requisition during his stay. "The tracts which issued from the royal press at York are specimens of neat and accurate printing. A distinction is uniformly made between those parts of which His Majesty was the author, and those which were the production of the Parliament, the former *being always set up in a tall well-formed black-letter.*" In the autumn, the King's press was transferred to Nottingham; but, some time previous, Stephen Bulkley had appeared in York as a printer.—*Archæologia Æliana* vii., 271, N.S.

“REASONS  
WHY  
SIR JOHN HOTHAM,  
TRVSTED BY  
THE PARLIAMENT,  
Cannot in Honour agree to the Treaty of Pacification made by  
some Gentlemen of Yorkshire, at  
Rothwell, Sept. 29. 1642.  
IT is agreed at the Treaty concluded this present 29 of September, 1642.”

### *Reafon.*

WHAT doe they treat for? Themselves, the County, or Parliament? If for themselves, their conclusions are but personall, and reach no further, and oblige no other part of Yorkshire. If for the Country, where did the Country authorise them, the East-Riding being unconsulted with? If for the Parliament, where is their Order? Nor, is it likely that the Parliament will article with Delinquents here, when they refuse it with the King, And if it be objected, that the Lord *Fairfax* and Master *Bellassis* be Knights of the Shire, and so already enabled by the County: I answer, No: For Master *Bellassis* is already disabled by the Parliament, and so not in the capacity he was before: and the Lord *Fairfax* articles, not onely without order of the Parliament, but against it, as shall appeare; for Knights of Shires are to treat for the County in the Parliament not out of it.

### ARTICLE I.

That all Forces Assembled together in any part of Yorkshire, or County or City of York, shall bee disbanded: all those under the conduct of Captaine Hotham, now in Doncaster, and all other Forces in any other part of the County under any other Commanders belonging to the Garrison at *Hull*, shall retire to Hull with all speed possible, and the said Captaine Hotham shall begin to march from Doncaster towards Hull, upon Saturday night.

### *Reafon 1st.*

If all forces be disbanded, how is the Country secured? it is not a bare Article can defend us from an invasion of force. And for the Sheriffe, or

any Justice's power, it is ridiculous to be obliged by those laws, from which the enemie thinks himself at liberty: And it is a strange command they should assume over Captaine *Hotham*, that oweth them no such obedience.

### ARTICLE II.

It is agreed, that no hostile, or violent act shall hereafter be done by the Garrison at Hull, either directly or indirectly by pretence of any aide or assistance whatsoever, upon the persons of any men within the County of York, or within the County or City of York, upon their goods, either in the aforesaid, or in the County of Kingstone-upon-Hull.

### *Reafon 2nd.*

It is agreed: But who agrees to this? Not Sir *John Hotham*, who is (I am sure) one Card in the packe at this time: and can they oblige him by their agreement? That, were to exercise a power paramount above the Parliament, and to countermand him in any act he shall do in relation to the Parliament Orders. And what do they mean by *an hostile act*? Is the bringing Delinquents to justice an hostile act? If it hath some more violence than our lawes do admit, the delinquents may thank themselves, who of late have been of that power, as they were not attachable by such acts, being too strong for the ordinary course of law; and by terming those hostile actions that are done by virtue of Orders and Declarations of Parliament, they doe arraigne the Parliament of illegality and violent proceedings.

### ARTICLE III.

It is agreed that the Commission of Array, and the Orders or Ordinance of Parliament for the Militia be wholly suspended in this County, until such times as some course be agreed upon for the ordering of the Militia by the King and Parliament, and this without disputing either the legality or the illegality of either, but as finding neither of them so necessary at this time as for the setting them on foot to involve this great County in blood.

### *Reafon 3rd.*

That is to put the County in a meere neutrallity: this is to estate ourselves in a civil independency; this is to make every Countrie a free Estate, or rather a tricke to delude both, by keeping these rights ourselves, which they fight for. But, whether King or Parliament agree or no, legalities are where they were: and by what law, Divine, Civill, or Common, can this County make it selfe the depositary of our interests, and exclusive of others.

And againe, why shall legality and illegality be equally regarded by us? Shall we doe no more for the first than for the last? shall legality finde none to advance it?

#### ARTICLE IV,

It is agreed that no command be imposed upon this County, but such as are legall and presidened in good times.

#### *Reafon 4th.*

Who shall judge of this legality when the Parliament imposeth Commissions? that were to set an interpretative Court above a Legislative, and to call the conclusions of England to the Barre of Yorkshire, and to indite a Parliament (the greatest Councell) before the judgement of some few gentlemen, and halfe of those Delinquents too; and this is to invert the course of justice, and to make offenders sit Judges.

#### ARTICLE V.

It is agreed that no armed Forces whatsoever shall be suffered to enter this County in a hostile manner, by vertue of any pretence or command whatsoever, and they which attempt to doe it, the whole County shall rise against them with force as enemies against peace to bee suppressed.

#### *Reafon 5th.*

If this be, Yorkshire shall be a Sanctuary of all Delinquents, so they come not apparently armed; and by this the whole County shall be ingaged to resist the Parliament, and so become involved in their delinquency: And whereas it is said here in generall, that not *any forces*, as if the Kings as well as Parliaments should be resisted, (*latet dolus:*) We know they thinke to save their stake at any time with the King: and can we thinke that they that have been ever so much for those wayes, will not wheele about for all this when the first advantage appeares.

#### ARTICLE VI.

It is agreed that if any carriages for household, either of the King or Queen, be to passe this County, that to prevent all other armed Forces under pretence of such a conduct to come amongst us, we shall take order to see them quietly conducted by the Sheriffe of the County, with such a convoy as he shall appoint and we like and with no other; and if it shall

happen the Queen's Majesty shall return out of Holland through this County we shall humbly beseech Her Majesty to forbear the bringing with Her any multitude of armed Forces, but to believe that we shall wait upon Her Majesty with such an honorably Convoy as shall fit our duty, and Her Honour.

#### *Reafon 6th.*

What if in these carriages under pretence be concealed ammunition to supply the warre betwixt the King and Parliament, shall this County be bound to give it safe wastage, and so implictely contribute to the mischiefs of the Kingdome. And for any Petition to the Queene to dismisse her forces, it is ridiculous: Is it probable that she will be so much wanting to her designe, as to dismisse them upon a bare Petition? and what shall a paper Petition doe, when the Countrey is not in any posture to relieve their Petition if denied? And if Her Majesty had been so easily petitioned out of her preparations, what an ommission and error was in the whole Kingdome, that never petitioned her all this while in Holland and so have saved the blood and peace of this Kingdome.

#### ARTICLE VII.

It is agreed that if any warlike provision be desired, to be passed this Country for His Majestie's service, that we shall humbly petition His Majesty, that he would be pleased to convey the same some other way, being it may be an occasion of interrupting our peace.

#### *Reafon 7th.*

Such a Petition were to promote the supplies of warre against the Parliament; and what matter is it which way provision goe, if it arrive where it is designed; ought we not rather to be in a posture of defence, to be able to suprise all such provisions, it appearing by many Declarations that the King, seduced by wicked Councell, makes warre against his Subjects.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

It is agreed, that none shall bee arrested in this County as Delinquents to either party, but by a legall, peaceable, and quiet way, that is, by the legall officers and their assistants only, and not by armed men and souldiers, who may be an occasion to bring fire amongst us.

*Reason 8th.*

But put the case, as now it is, that no power but an armed power can bring Delinquents to justice, what, shall they be left alone, because none but a legall power can doe it? like the Jew of Tewxsbury, who because he could not be relieved according to his law, died in a Privie. I confesse a peaceable and quiet proceeding in justice were very commendable, were it seasonable; and for aught I know, an armed force is as legall now, as any course of justice: the Parliament have not only declared so, but our adversaries have heighned and necessitated justice to take up arms.

## ARTICLE IX.

It is agreed that a generall amity be made betwixt all the gentry and others of this County of all former unkindnesses, and differences that have beeene bred by these unhappy distinctions, and that we hereafter will be as one man to defend one another, according to the Law, against all others, leaving all offences to be punished by the Law of the Land, and not by force and violence.

*Reason 9th.*

The Earle of *Cumberland* was by Commission Generall of Yorkshire, and he hath more honour than to suffer with publike reparation made to him, such a fault being in it selfe odious. But done within his government without his privity, a great diminution to his honour. And 'tis not yet known that the Captaine of the Troop is returned to him for punishment, without which indifferent men will not beleeve good faith to be meant. But suppose those forces returne againe, where is the power that shall suddenly supresse them as they shall suddenly offend, they being not to be brought to justice but by a power as armed as they: so as this County is necessarily engaged to keep forces stirring, else there can be no speedy repulse.

## ARTICLE X.

It is agreed that whatsoever in this County, shall be made to appeare either to be the author, contriver or assister, to the burning of Sir Edward Rodes,\* his house, or pillaging any other man's house in this County, we shall all see them (if they be able) to make reparation, and however to be brought to Justice.

\* He was the eldest son and heir of Sir Godfrey Rodes, of Great Houghton, Knight. He was a warm supporter on the Parliamentary side,

*Reason 10th.*

That were to make the Delinquents, and those that have stood to their religion and liberty in one case, for oblivion of former unkindnesses I command their Christianity, if the quarrell were only their owne, but the differences are not personall, but in reference to the publike (and now who is my Brother? and what are my Brethren?) Yet I have so much Logick as to tell how to love the Malignants, and attach them too; love them as Countrey men, and arrest them as Delinquents; as our English King that imprisoned his Brother, not as a Bishop, but as an Earle.

## ARTICLE XI.

It is agreed, that it is intended by disbanding of the Armies, that His Majesty shall have all liberty for the removing of all such Cannon and Munition, as he hath in this County.

*Reason 11th.*

This Article still advanceth the warre against the Parliament: for why should we agree that any ammunition should be sent to these forces: that are declared enemies to the state, why should not rather all ammunition be surprised, as the Parliament hath ordered; this is directly against their Orders and Declarations.

## ARTICLE XII.

It is agreed, that all the Armes which doe belong to any of the trained Bands of this County, which hath been taken from them since the 12 of this instant September, by either party, shall be presently restored, and that *Captaine Hotham* shall leave behind him when he returns into Hull, all those brass Peeices belonging to His Majesty, which are now in Doncaster, except such as he himselfe brought thither himselfe from Hull.

and one of the first acts of hostility in Yorkshire was directed against him. About September, 1642, an attack was made upon his house at Great Houghton by a party of Royalists, under the command of Captain Grey, when, according to the journals of the time, all the out-houses were burnt, his goods plundered to the amount of £600, his lady uncivilly treated, and some of his servants wounded, and one slain.

*Reason 12th.*

This Article might be allowed, if all the trained Bands were of one constitution, but since there are many malignants, whose armes do better in the hands of others, it were very disadvantagious to our peace that the malignant party should be armed, and contrary to the proceedings of Parliament : It is no wisdom therefore to put swords again into our enemies' hands.

## ARTICLE XIII.

It is agreed that no further Forces shall, during this difference betwixt King and Parliament, be either raised in, or paid by this County, for this warre, other than such as are already levied, and really raised, and all such also presently to goe out of this County, without raising any more.

*Reason 13th.*

This is like the former, to prevent all surprisall of their owne persons, to keep the Countrey nakēd and unprepared for resistance, and if the raised forces passe to the King, we tacitly contribute to the strengthening of Delinquents, and advancing the warre against the Parliament.

## ARTICLE XIV.

It is agreed, that a humble Remonstrance, and Declaration of these our Resolutions, we presently send, both to the King and Parliament, accompanied with an humble Petition from us all, that according as wee all have unanimously agreed for our particular peace, so they would be pleased so far to commiserate this distracted Kingdome, to doe the same for the general peace of the whole.

Signed by the Committee for the Treaty.

HENRY BALLASES.

SIR. WILLIAM SAVILL.

SIR. EDWARD OSBURNE.

SIR. JOHN RAMSDEN.

JOHN HOPTON.

FRANCIS NEVILL.

SIR. THOMAS FAIRFAX,

SIR. THOMAS MALMERER.

SIR. WILLIAM LISTER.

WILLIAM WHITE.

THOMAS STOCKDALE.

whom you ought to receive ; and if their peace shall be like yours, which you desire it should be, they shall shake hand with the Delinquents upon even terms ; and then what is left to defray the expence the Kingdom hath been put to by their practises. To conclude, what peace is this you make, as if the pilot would save his own Cabbin when the ship were sinking, as if you would article the County into a naked unpreparednesse for any resistance and defence, and yourselves into some security (the King being too farre off to supply) and article the Countrey against Sir John Hotham, and against the orders of Parliament, and by consequence of his trust, and in summe, under the notion of treaty and reconciliation, article the rest of the Gentry into your own Delinquency, and all into a mysterious conspiracy against King and Parliament.

FJNJS.

*Reason 14th.*

I conceive, though their Petition be never so humble, it is inconsistent with your Articles for your particular peace you represent : Know the lawes of State, and Imperiall ceremonies better, and give not law to those from